

Interview Subject: Holly Boone  
Interviewer: KM, BP, LW  
Project: Dock Stories  
Transcriber: Kristin Meeuwen  
Principle Investigator: JST  
Others Present: N/A  
Date: April 13, 2024  
Duration: 2 hours and 7 minutes  
Place: Boone's Seafood, Darien, Georgia, McIntosh County

0:00:00

KM: I can start mine too. And start this one. All right, should be recording. Okay. This is an interview with Miss Holly Boone on April 13, 2024. And this interview is being conducted in Darien which is in McIntosh County, Georgia. And the dock is called Boone Seafood. And it is part of a research project, an interview collection, titled dock stories, and the interviewers are Kristin Meeuwen, Lillie Waters, and Blake Pavri. All right let's go ahead and go. So let's start with tell us your connections to the dock.

HB: Oh, I married a fisherman.

[Giggles]

HB: 25 years ago. I'd never, I've lived here my whole life but I've never, I've never even been to this dock before. I was like 19 and, The first time I ever come down here was late at night and he came in to pick me up on the boat and he pulled up at the end of the dock and I was scared to death walking down the dock at night. I'd never never been down here before and I mean, I'm literally five miles from where I grew up. I mean it's crazy but, yeah. So we got married after that and I just kind of ended up in the office somehow. Yeah.

KM: So, how long have y'all been married?

HB: 25 years.

KM: Wow.

HB: Last week. That's okay. Did you hear anything about this dock, Like while you were like, living around here or?

HB: Not really. I knew the family name because there's a lot of them and it's a small town. But, But really no, I just, we didn't. We didn't go out. I, we didn't grow up around the river. We didn't come out. Okay, so the to make this make sense, I had a brother. I was four, and he was two and he drowned. So we didn't do water, we didn't do what I like my whole childhood. We didn't, you know, we did a pool or something, but she didn't go into, I never learned to swim.

Okay, so it's like that. That's how much we were kept away from the water. So, so it's kind of weird. And that explains too while I was walking down The dock that night, how scared I was. Because the dock has been redone since then and it's a lot wider than what it was.

So it was this little narrow thing and yeah the boat pointed to the end of the dock. And anyway, I survived.

KM: Was it still Boone Seafood then?

HB: Yeah. It's been Boone Seafood for, I don't know the exact date but I know, Around 60 years,

60 plus.

KM: Wow.

HB: Yep. His, Greg's great, well, his granddaddy, his granddaddy, Tessie. He started the dock, he and his wife. And then, He passed away in the 90s. He had five kids. So all five kids have a share of the dock and as each one of them have passed away, there's only one left. Their shares went to their children. So this is a multi like a lot of, Can't think of the word. But anyway, there's a lot of people invested in the dock that have ownership in it. So.

KM: Multi-Generational?

HB: Yes. We have Fourth generation fisherman here.

KM: Oh wow.

BP: Fourth Generation?

LW: Wow.

HB: Yeah. Granddaddy Boone was the first on in our family line, Greg's daddy's name was Sinky, and that was his name. Sinky.

KM: Sinky?

HB: Sinky.

KM: Huh? Not a nickname?

HB: Not a nickname. That was his name. And then, of course, Greg. And then Greg's Fourth, third son, Michael. And then our son too, that is on the boat with him, but Michael has his own boat, he captains his own boat, he has for years now. So yeah, four generations down here. There's a and almost everybody back, back before. You know, when they were younger all of them. Trying to think, all four of the Sons were fishermen. So the granddaddy was a fisherman, all four of his sons were fishermen. And just about every one of their male children were fishermen so and eventually they've slowly, you know, gotten out of the business over the last I guess probably about 20 years.

[Door Opens and Closes]

HB: That was Christopher. But, so yeah, I mean it's you, it used to be nothing but family down here, we had, All every boat down here was owned by one person and that, you know, in that pyramid of people. So, as they started going out of business, not out of business. But as they started selling off and not, not fishing anymore. We've let people from other docks, Come here. They closed. I don't know if this is the stuff y'all want to hear or not. But

KM: Yes! Yes

LW/BP: Absolutely [Inaudible]

LW: Spill the tea.

[Laughing]

[0:05:04](#)

HB: Okay. So it used to only be family and occasionally a boat from somewhere else might come and unload with us or something. But like I said, there was a dock down here where this big hotel is. Okay. So there was a dock and railway where they took the boats up and all that. Well, when all that closed up, those folks had to have somewhere to go so they've kind of

dispersed everywhere. And our Dock is considered pretty safe down here. No, we don't have I don't know what you want to call it. Riff Raff. We don't have people. We don't have trouble down here at all. Okay. Only trouble, only time I've ever had to call the police is on a boat from out of state and I made them leave. I called the cops and made them leave. They would just fight with each other. It wasn't anything to do with anything else. But, um, But yeah, so now we've got boats from North Carolina. That come here and talk with us. Some out in the county that used to, you know, the other docks out. Out that way they used to dock there and they've come around to us. One of the big things that happened though. When around the same time, all that happened, Ice. You know, ice is a big deal on a boat. And so there was a company. I say a company, it was just a small business, but they supplied these big large blocks of ice and he I guess got a little older and just decided it was, He was ready to retire and there was nobody else to run the business. So he closed down and that was the only way for years and years and years that you could get ice around here. You bought it by the block, you ordered it, the truck brought it in. There was a over on the other side of the dock, there was like a I don't know, just the thing that you slide the ice down and then it goes into a chipper and they blow it into the boat. So when that happen I mean everybody was just like okay what are we gonna do? And this wasn't just us. This is everybody. You know. All these other docks too. So the family got together and decided the best thing to do would be to build that. I don't know if you saw the building over in the corner over here, it's filled with ice all the way up to the top. There's I think four ice machines up there now. And other places I've done that too but we have boats, you know, from other like from other docks right here by us that they're smaller docks and so they financially can't buy their own ice machines. And some of the places that can't keep up, they'll their, their boats will come around here, too. We get ice from us. So that was a big, It helps, it helped. I mean we sell fuel here and we've always been able to, you know, to do the ice but the ice is completely by us now and so we're, you know, it's been a good help to the business. So.

LW: When did that stop? Like in the like when did the-?

[0:07:48](#)

HB: It's I think I want to say, it's been at least 10 years. Yeah.

KM: Is that when the railway closed too, about 10 years ago?

HB: It's yeah I'm gonna just say around. Yeah I don't I'm not good with dates, I can't remember-

LW: I'm not either.

HB: But it's just yeah, it's been long enough that I know it's really aggravating not to have a railway here anymore because it is, it is terrible. It can put you out of business just by not having you know, not being able to get up on the railway. If something happens, you have to wait months to get up because they've already got a lineup.

KM: Where's the closest one?

HB: Out in Valona, which is probably 15 minutes from here, something like that.

It's a couple hours by boat. So, but there's, there's a line. They always have somebody ready to get up. So, and we've been lucky so far, nothing's happened to any of the boats that since that happened since that because we've had boats sink. I know y'all heard that. I heard y'all heard that.

Yeah. But, We had a boat. Well, two boats that we've had to patch up in the river right down here and just get them up to the railway, they'd pull them up and then got repaired. But Yeah, both of them. We ended up fishing for a long time after that, but it was Oh, I mean just the scariest, a scary feeling when, you know, your boat's down the river and lay it over on its side. So but we've had it happen, twice. And like I said, the railway was right there so you could just go, you know, that other boats they all get together help you get right there. But now what do we do? Just a two hour you know something were to happen here now I don't know if you could save a boat anymore.

LW: Big change?

HB: Yeah.

BP: How often do you think people use the railway, like to patch up like boats and everything like that?

HB: Every year.

BP: Every year?

HB: Sometimes, sometimes twice a year, but normally every year and you try to do it in the middle of summer because they really don't fish in July and August for the most part. That or either. You know, January, February, March. Those are the times and so it's really hard, you know your boat messes up. We have one mess up in September one time and we had to get up and It was terrible. It put, I mean it it was detrimental to the whole year because we missed out like two months of shrimpin' and the best timing, like shrimpin, it starts in September for that, that season And we're sitting at the dock, we couldn't do anything, not until until the boat got on the railway because you, you know, the propeller stuff like that that you, There's nothing you can do. I mean, you have to get up there to fix that stuff. So it's been bad. It was a hard hit for that railway to be closed.

[0:10:31](#)

LW: What really caused it to close down?

HB: Growth. Yeah, we got a new hotel up there at a restaurant.

KM: We saw it.

HB: Yeah, they tore it. They, And actually, you know, I said something about the ice about that guy having ice out there, but this there was also an ice house right there. So you could get ice, we call either place. And then he sold out. The dock was there that, they used to. It was an old crab plant where they used to do crabs and stuff there. And they changed it into Like some kind of little office but um, but they actually had the dock and there was ice down there and you could get ice but it's, he sold out, he sold all of it. All the way, the railway all the way to the bridge. So, so I, when I say that this dock, that's right here, beside us just on the other side of that is where the railway was. You can see it. If you looked straight down the road right up here, you could see the boats up there.

BP: I think we've passed that coming in and then kind of see.

HB: Yeah, it's right. Where the hotel sits now.

LW: Okay Yeah.

HB: Yeah. That was not good and it lost people lost jobs too. Because, I mean, obviously you gotta have people to run the railway and not anybody could, you know, not just anybody could do that. So, you know, to kind of Patchwork and dealing with some of the stuff, they'd have to touch and you know, So anyway, yeah, it was, It was bad. Still is.

LW: Yeah, Still a big change. When it closed down, did any of those workers come and shrimp or anything like that?

HB: They, uh, yeah, they're, they're still pretty much. I think they're pretty much all shrimpin', but they went to different docks. We, The guys are real picky about. Who comes here.

KM: Gotcha.

HB: They're, The way it works is kind of the family. There's this dock is owned by so much family. And, To make sense, I guess to go back. When I first started coming down here, Greg's Aunt, Greg obviously is my husband. Okay, So his aunt His Aunt, she was running the boat, she'd been running the place for probably 20 years at that point, at least. And, when I started coming around, I don't know, I just picked up on the business, I knew what it was and so she had something happened and she had to go into the hospital and We were like, oh, there's nobody to write checks. What are we gonna do? You know, and it was hard to be able to get into her at that point. And so when she come out, I got added onto the checking account, and so then it was a, hey, I have a doctor's appointment. Can you, can you work at the dock that day?

And then, you know, I've got to have a knee replacement, Do you think you can get? And I ended up here for like a year and a half and then, you know, I had to have another hip replacement and then another, you know. So there was all these things and I'd be down here for like a year and a half at a time. And then, I guess it's probably been 9 or 10 years ago. She got breast cancer and she was out for that. She lived in this little house across the parking lot.

BP: Oh, okay.

KM: That's where she lived. So, so I would just go to her and I'd get the checkbook and all that. And I'd come over for the day and I'd go over back at the end of the day and just tell her, this is what went on today, you know, and there were a few things that she's still, That she still handled, but then, after she got, she did Come back from her cancer and She just told me one day, she said, I'm, I'm not going back to the office.

[giggles]

HB: I was like, okay. So it was, you know, and so I ended up at like I said, it's probably been at least that long.

[Door Opens]

HB: [Inaudible] She's like I'm not going back. And, what's so funny is, my youngest daughter. We were somewhere and somebody asked her. What? What did your mama do? So she says. Oh she don't work.

[All laughing]

HB: Because I had been, It was so sporadic. You know, I'd work and not work and, and I was still able to make all of their school things and field trips or whatever. And even now, with this group of guys that I'll get to what I was, the whole point of that that you asked,[laughing] Even

now, the guys are really good with me because I don't have anybody to help my daughter. The oldest one she did, she could work for me some days if it was busy and she understood the business and how everything went. But then she moved.

[0:15:05 \[Door Closes\]](#)

HB: Sorry y'all.

BP: No working business.

LW: I was about to say.

KM: Yeah, working waterfront. This is what it looks like right.

HB: So yeah, my daughter, she left me, she got married and went to North Carolina, And now she's in Texas and now she's back here for a visit. But, anyway, so I did have her for a while there, and but then, I had grandkids, you know, and so these guys out here I'm like, I have I'm gone for a week. I'll see you in a week. You know, I'll pay you when I get back. You know, and then they've all there's a good group of guys and they've all like worked with me on that kind of thing. And I've left for a week, 10 days, something like that, at the time and they're all really good about it. And I, the point that I was trying to get to, to start with was that, I have worked the office. And just a little bit of stuff, write the checks. But, Four of the guys that are out here. Are would be. Excuse me. Greg and his son, Michael. Big Ricky and his son Little Ricky who Bigger than he is, so that names are just but, -

LW: I feel like it always works out that way.

HB: Yeah, he's like a head taller than his daddy. It's just little Ricky, but, Yeah, so so the four of them um even though the boys don't have, They don't have any share or anything in the dock, but they're the four main family that are down here and every single, you know, this is they've been here for years, so they get together and they talk about, You know, if so-and-so wants to come and this one's like I don't, I don't think so. That's not a good idea or this one's. Hey, I got this friend from, you know, North Carolina. And he wants to come down here and dock and, he's a good person, you know. So that's how this decided who comes here and who don't. And I don't think they believe me when they call and say, hey, I need to place the dock I'm like, that is not up to me and I don't want it to be up to me.

BP: Yeah.

KM: Right.

HB: But, they, all the way down to the condition of the boat and everything. They're really picky and we could have a lot more people down here but it's it's just right for us what the way we've got it now. So, yeah. So they, that's kind of how it works and It's funny because we've had boats that from here out in the county that have come around here and they, they live out there. But they'll come all the way here too, you know, but their boats are safe. They know that we don't have people. And I'll just be honest, like crackheads. I mean they are shrimping is a good job and I mean, when it's good it's really good and they bring it home. You know, the crew might bring home a couple thousand dollars or something on a trip and he's, you know, they drug it all up. But that's the only kind of person most of the time that you can get to work. And that's the kind of people you end up with, you know, and we dealt with that for a long time here.

[Door Opens and Closes]

[All laughing]

KM: He remembered.

HB: This is this all day long. My door was back before everybody's in and out. Yeah. So anyway, so I'll lifting up. Something else? I'll just run them out. Yeah but I went all the way around the world to get back to that one question. I'll take it. And Matt, I shouldn't leave him out. He's, um, his last name is not Boone, but his mama was, you're gonna love this Taffy. But that was her real name. Just like Sinky. And, anyway, he lives in the house on the other side now. So he kind of takes care of the day-to-day, the maintenance, and things like that that are going on.

KM: Okay.

HB: And, Yeah, I mean like I said he lives right there, so he takes care of making sure. Um the boats get ice when they need it and stuff like that we keep the fuel tanks, they're able to come up and get fuel. We just have these, That's here. They just fill it out and it tells us how much fuel they got and everyone. We've never had a problem with anybody coming up and getting fuel and not writing their stuff down or anything. So he does work here. He does the outside. He does not like to do any deciding on who gets to come. He's really, he's a, he's a soft heart. He doesn't want anybody mad at him.

[0:19:24](#)

KM: Gotcha.

HB: But he is like he would be his mom passed away. About two years ago, okay. So that's why I say it's I know for the last two years I've been here and there's probably seven or eight or so before that. So it's it's been it hasn't been a full 25 years, you know? And I don't want to give that impression at all because she run this dock for a long time. But it's been when you add up those years together, it's probably been a good 15 I've been down here, you know, something like that. I'm still the only one. I can't find any help but it's hard because this is just like I told that guy we don't have hours. I can't tell you what time we're gonna open. I can't tell you what time we're going home.

[Knock On Door]

HB: COME IN.

[0:20:18](#)

HB: Fish were not always my friends. They keep me down here. Sometimes trying to sell.

KM: Oh really?

HB: Till, yeah till I mean, you gotta sell them, we don't keep anything here, we have no we don't have any any type of freezer down here. We used to have a cooler but not anymore. It just went out and they just quit using it. And.

BP: Do you wish that you had something to keep the fish overnight or?

HB: Yeah. I really kinda. I mean I don't, because I don't want to. I don't want that type of job. I don't. I like the flexibility that I've got going on down here but our dock has been around a really long time. You look up seafood in this area and our dock pops up on Google Maps or whatever and we get a lot of people coming up here for that but if we had said had it set up and we could

but Some, Some of the family, just don't feel like it's worth bothering with. But I know that when I'm down here just doing paperwork, I get knocks on the door constantly and people I mean every day of the week they come down here looking for shrimp and it's really hard because you can't advertise because you don't know when the boats are coming in. I mean I have one of the worst, most aggravating things I'll be in the middle of the grocery store and it's like, hey, so and so is here to unload and I'm like man. You know, you have to put your cold stuff back cause you can't make it home and then back, you know. So yeah and and I don't have to do that but it's it's you know, I mean I try now to kind of call 'em or text or something and they're pretty good about texting. But just like today, I didn't know Greg was coming in. He just left yesterday morning, he didn't catch anything. He's not wasting fuel, he can write back in this morning, you know. There were two other boats out there and he didn't know if they were coming in or not. So I had to come call both of them and he's, you know, well I wouldn't do you like that. You know, I'd let you know, we were coming in, but it happens a lot that they just show up and they're not thinking about, you know, thinking about calling. So it's really hard to set up a sale. Okay, you know, other than through Greg's stuff. I can, I can, if somebody wants something, I'll be like, okay, when are you coming in? So I can tell them to be here and if it changes then he's constantly telling me. So, So, I can get, you know, sell stuff for him. But as far as down here, There's nobody interested enough in the family because they're not real interested. I don't think in hiring outside to have anybody else come in and do it. But we have the space and it would be really good. We used to there used to be um, I don't know if he sells Skipper Seafood on the other side of the bridge.

KM: I think we're gonna have lunch there.

HB: There you go. Okay, so oh yeah, we'll i've kept ya'll

KM: It will be a late lunch.

BP: It's okay.

HB: It won't be busy at least.

KM: It'll be like linner, lunch-dinner.

[laughing]

HB: Yeah, so that used to be Skipper's dock, and they had a business like that and they did. I mean, They were, just constantly I mean, you know, there was you hear people just pulled up, you know, get their shrimp leave and go and there and they knew that they had it though. So they'd run this retail down there and now that they're not there anymore. And Mr. Skipper just recently passed away but, The Market's there, you know?

KM: So there's like a hole now that needs to be filled?

HB: It really is and it's been a long time. It's been a long time since I mean, Skippers has been there quite a few years. And you can, it's just There's just a whole market for it and it could happen if everybody were on board with it and it's kind of hard down here to get all one ever of that many people to decide on one thing and some of them they're like, I don't care. Y'all do it, y'all just do it, you know, do whatever you got to do down there, but It is, it is kind of weird not having a there's no one person. That does everything. We all just kind of do our little, And do our



parts. I don't know. I told 'em I don't want anything to do with the outside. You know you need boxes? I'll order boxes. Don't ask me to build a box. I'm not doing it. So Matt you know, like I said he keeps the outside up anything bigger than just maintenance and regular day's work. He goes to you know big Ricky or little Ricky or Michael or Greg, you know and they're helping, you know, are not help him but Oh, I'm sorry.

[Answers phone]

[0:25:05](#)

KM: Yeah, cause you don't want to be here all day right?

HB: Well, and Matt's really good about it, too. If he's just kind of around, I could just say, hey, Matt, so was always coming at whatever time. Do you mind walking over, or keeping a lookout? And he'll do that. So which is what we'll do with this guy here. So he's a couple hours away. Can't make it right now, but he's a good customer and I know he'll come. So I don't mind saving 'em for him and you know, who to work with around here. And who sticks you with stuff.

KM: Would you say that y'all run your dock similarly, to other docks in the area?

HB: I honestly don't know. I really don't. I've never, I know the people and I mean, you know what, the other docs and stuff. I know the fishermen at a lot of docks, but I've never really been in. Their offices or like next door. They don't, they don't have but a few boats, Thompson Seafood over there, and they only have a few boats. They, they're not, they're like us, they're not there all the time, you know, it's only when a boat wants to unload, but there are a lot smaller businesses. I don't even think, I don't think they have a bathroom. I mean, like it's just a small office over there, so they can go and do the paperwork for the boat and go. So, I guess it in that kind of way. I mean, we are a little bit different, but most of the docks around, I'm pretty sure have their regular offices with, you know, The setup like we've got, we don't ever close our doors so there's no, this is an open air dock.

KM: Okay.

HB: I gotta tell you all this, we had the inspector come one time. A couple years ago and did the inspection and there's a door, I don't remember which side it's on, but there's a crack underneath the door about this big, But What does it matter? Because you've got the entire I mean the place is wide open here. She told us we had to fix that. Crack. We couldn't have that crack in that door, and I'm just like, You don't see the, I mean, I'm not good at measurements but you see this opening right here, you know, I mean and there's not even a there's not even an option to close those doors. There's nothing there you know, it's wide open and I guess that goes back to how we've got good people around here that we don't worry about. I lock the office and it's very good luck. I mean, it's just, you know, and we lock the oil room on the other side. But that's where the, you know, buckets of oil are kept and yes expensive. So we do keep a lock on it but, otherwise this place is open. I mean, just like, like at Thompson, somebody needs to go to the bathroom, they might come over here, use our bathroom or something that kind of thing. But a lot of docks do close up. So you know you have to have your tea to get in, you can't just walk in like this and but it's always been like this, that I mean since I've been here, so yeah. We are going to get a security system though, we just discussed it. Just, just because I don't know. Every now and then

some little something happens, you know, you'll get the wrong kind of person that comes around looking for scrap and somebody will say oh yeah, gettin' scrap and then you'll look in their truck and they don't have scrap, they've got the good stuff, you know, stuff you're actually going to use that. They the guys need had that happen last year. The guy was giving permission but it was like this isn't your stuff you can't tell somebody if they can pick up. Scrap scrap is scrap. You know, the little, you know, not not a big ol' sheet of metal. No, that's not scrap. Okay. So yeah. So we just talked about it. We are gonna get a hard wired because I've never had, that printer is probably the most expensive thing in this office. We don't keep anything, you know, nothing in here and so we're gonna get a security system for inside and out just to just to have it. It never hurts to have it. They said Milledge, Milledge y'all know Milledge, he's the one in the red. Yeah he said there was somebody sleeping. In the dock last night and we have had that happen. I mean there was, there was one kid. About 18-19 years old, but he didn't have a place to go, and he would go in that little room on the other side over there and He had his little, I mean, he just his little setup in there and that's where he stayed. Really didn't kind of say anything to him, just kind of watch to see how it played out and you know, eventually he left, he wasn't here that long, but he knew that we knew that we you know, that he was there. So it wasn't, but it wasn't like a, I don't know, it was just a convenient spot, we've had a couple of people end up in that room somehow just the bathroom's there. It's convenient. So

KM: Especially if you leave it open.

HB: Yeah. And it is, it is wide open. Everything is wide open. And I wasn't joking. I'd like to get that room. You know, I wanted to get it fixed up. So When we have a crew down here, they can go in and make a cup of coffee over there. Not over here.

KM: Yeah.

[0:30:04](#)

HB: Yeah, so it'd be nice to have that. So that's kind of something we've been talking about doing, put a table and all that kind of stuff in there. Just let them have a little room and I say them because there's no specific person. We don't have. Y'all believe how many people we go through in a year down here, because this is not a regular job. So you can't come up and work 40 hours a week and support your family off of it. You're coming to work for three hours and you might not work again for three or four days. So it's just kind of hard to keep help doing that. We've made it work somehow. I mean, there's always somebody and if not then the boat owner have to, maybe they'll get out and, you know, they'll come up and help and load. So, I don't know.

LW: What did y'all kind of start? I guess bringing in people who are not family.

HB: Oh, Trying think of the first one that came. It's not been very many years ago. Well, there was, there was one um, older fisherman. He's passed away now. And he was, I guess you could say like family, he fished with all of the sons, the first or the second generation of sons. And, I mean he was probably 70, something 80. Something we passed away about a year or two ago, but he had been here for years. He was the only one when I come around. That was not from the dock or a family member of this dock. But he was here the entire time, you know, his boat is still

at the end of the dock. He's before we passed away. Gave it. I actually gave it to Greg. And we're waiting to go on the railway. We've been waiting for about a year now.

KM: Oh wow.

HB: To get that boat up on the railway. So Christopher can hopefully run it. My son. So hopefully he can, you know, he's learned how to do most of that I've according to them. I don't believe it because he's only 19 but, [laughing] The first time he ever let him go from out at the railway at that railway area is the same area that the jelly balls. They unload them and Greg was at home and I was like don't you go back and take the bring the boat back around or you leave the boat out there or what he says no Christopher's bringing. I'm like , What are you talking? What do you mean? He's bringing, that's two hours by himself. [laughing] I mean, And he didn't start, he did, he's not one of those kids, you know, the halfway grew up on a Shrimp boat you know he didn't want to go shrimping . He wasn't a daddy's boy, you know, he wanted to stay at home and so like when he was he hit start going to was like 14, 15 years old and he's only 19 now and he's bringing the boat around and parking it. And I'm just like, okay, And his daddy's convinced that he could take, he could take the other one out and follow him around fishing and and you know, and keep learning from that, you know. I hesitate, but

KM: Is Christopher your only son or?

HB: Of mine, of mine and Greg's together.

KM: Gotcha.

HB: Yeah I don't say that around the other boys because I've been around for a long time so it's always a joke but no we're not your stepsons, you know. But, Anyway, so yeah, I try to watch how I phrase that cause, you know, it is put those together. So we have two girls and then Christopher and he's the youngest. So,

KM: The other sons are shrimping too, or no?

HB: Well, he has three boys, the oldest is. He works at the school the I.T. His middle son has moved away and I don't, I don't get to talk to him, that I haven't talked to him in quite a long time. But He's doing something. I'm not really sure what because they does. He does keep in contact with his daddy. But his the youngest of those three Michael. He don't. He has a boat. Is the (Miss Aliny Alease) . It's freezer boat. So yeah. So, two of the four, the middle son, he did, he did shrimp while he, you know, growing up and a little bit as an adult, but it just wasn't for him. He was more of a hands-on electrical type you know they're just different everybody's different and he just that was his direction the oldest he was into computers. He wouldn't have you couldn't be more different you know but um You know, so he's There's just the two of them pretty much. I stop because I don't know what else to say, So ya'll.

[laughing]

[0:34:48](#)

HB: Well.

LW: What all has the dock gone through? Throughout the years like maybe even before you started working and maybe when you just met Greg or anything like that, that he talked about?

HB: There's a lot. Yeah, there's a lot. I wish I could think of a lot of some of the stuff that he's

talked about but I know that uh, this office, This is what they call the new office over here. But it wasn't always here. Like I said, they had the little office over there and they would only pay out like once a week and people would come up to the little window or whatever and they'd do their business at the window. You didn't go and mingle and sit in the office like they all do. Now. And, but they would only pay like, you know, once a week and back. Then I, I think that they did go through different family members, that would come down here, and they would take turns selling, you know, they would, they did have sales and, you know, and but you had boats too that would go out just for a day and come right back in. So every day you'd have fresh, you know, fresh shrimp. But over the years this this you don't you can't go out for a day you got to go out five six days so you got to make it a trip. I Know that they used to bring everything in heads on. And they had headers. They had tables out here. They dumped the shrimp out and they paid people and you got paid I guess by the pound on the heads. What do you got done. And Greg talked about how they were kids, they'd come down here and, you know, They need a 25 Cent to go do whatever, you know. And so they'd head shrimp. Or he or you know and or buy his own clothes when he got a little older, that kind of thing. You know, you come, you worked for it, you didn't, wasn't going to be handed, but I did do a lot of that and when, When I first come down here and this is hilarious. The two guys that were working here were older and retired two, two black men, really nice. Yeah. But they were older. I mean, they're like in their late '60s, early '70s, and they're yanking up these 100 lb boxes. Like, they're nothing. And you can't get these young guys to do it. Now, it is, I mean, I think back to that sometimes I'm like he was, so old out there, do it. I mean, you know, pushing pushing like in the 70s and stuff and, and they're slinging these boxes. Like, it's nothing and And now I mean I've had 'em quit right in the middle of, I can't pick any more boxes up, you know? I mean, it is heavy, it's not, I mean I'm not gonna say it's not because you got 100 pounds of shrimp. Plus well, you got plus all the ice and stuff, it kicked my butt. I mean, I can help. I have to lift up and stuff and put them. I can help do what I have to if they need it out there or pick them up and put them in somebody's truck or something like that. But How they're doing that all day long but it's it's it is hard you're aching at the end of the day, I know. But, You ever told stories. This the one guy, Like I said, these were good guys. But one of them would try to figure out any way he could get him to get a shrimp and he put, There was a tiny hole out there, somewhere up under the, where the shrimp, all come in and all under the vat and he put a bag under there. So the shrimp would every now then the shrimp would fall in. And When and I've seen him and of course he got called, he got in trouble for that but, and I but I'd seen him too. When the like when the fish come through, if they've got busted bellies or something,

[Door Opens]

Unknown Female: Ya'll still going?

HB: Yeah.

Unknown Female: I'm Out

HB: Alright Bye.

[Door Closes]

[0:38:27](#)

HB: So the fish, if they have busted bellies or something like that, you know, we don't this time of year, they kind of do, but that's normal. But then, you know, if they're small, they gotta best, but whatever. They'll kind of throw them off to the side. Well, he had it bucking out there and he throw a couple shrimp in there, couple fish in there. The end day, he take his bucket home and he was like and it's not like he wouldn't have been giving every one of these guys down here. For a family or any of us that work down here. If I wanted a pound of shrimp or something, or whatever, I'll just take it, you know, we don't care. It's a pound of shrimp because it's not money, until it's in a check.

KM: Yeah Right.

HB: Yeah. So, but yeah, they're and he worked down here for a long time. And then once those two guys weren't able to work here anymore, it's been just kind of a pain trying to have. There's nobody consistent down here at all except me and Matt, we're the only two that actually work at the dock. And Milledge, I say but Milledge doesn't work all the time. He's just sometimes he'll come help us unload. He does like to build boxes and he's really good at it and really fast, so I'll leave that up to them. And, Yeah. So I don't know a lot about. I just, I wish I knew more about you know, how it was down here when, before everything they used to have. Like bidding wars. People would the buyers would come down and they would-

KM: Oh Really?

HB: Yeah, they would like who's gonna pay the most and now we're like, please come buy our shrimp, just, just come back, you know.

[laughing]

HB: But so many people, you know, over the years put out a business. I mean, I think our,, I don't know if y'all know Smith and Sons. It's Out by the sheriff's department. Okay? So they've been around forever. Kind of like this family, it's a family business, kind of like us and that's who buys our shrimp. And it's it's, I guess we're lucky, because they're right here because they buy shrimp, like, all down the coastline all around. You know, they're about shrimp from everywhere. And that's who all of our shrimp go to. So when he, you know, we've had a couple years though, where they just Had so many imported shrimp, flooding the market that they couldn't like last year. You couldn't hardly sell a shrimp. I mean, it was crazy, not, not, and I say a shrimp. We could sell down here all day long, but when they come in with six thousand pounds of shrimp. What are you supposed to do with them? You got it. There's no way to sell them. You gotta take them to a buyer or they can pick them up and, We've been really really lucky so far that when they cut off the other docks we haven't been cut off, they'll still come and pick our shrimp up. We might not get paid that day but they still pick the shrimp up with and we've we know that they will you know, So it's, It's kind of funny how relationships, you know because it goes back, so many generations, you know. But, Since I've been here, we've, the whole front of the dock, the plank or whatever you want to call it, the walkway. All that's been redone and it's wider than it used to be. And then we had to redo the office a couple years ago. I don't remember what hurricane it was but, it was I think 17. And water come up in the office.

BP: Oh man.

KM: Oh Wow

HB: It comes up. Yeah, it, the whole parking lot everything and that's like The first time anything that ever happened like that. And we had no, you never think that it would coming here, you know in here.

LW: Right?

HB: So we didn't do anything. We just everything was like it was so we lost all the furniture. The I mean everything all the stuff you know like that stuff has been here forever and so all that was up but the water come up probably. I don't know.

KM: Wow.

HB: Yeah, it was, it was ridiculous.

LW: Yeah, that's like half my size.

[Laughing]

HB: Yeah. I'm telling you, but it was funny because I did. I've never thought about it when I was doing it. And my dumb self, all of us, we parked up the hill up there and walked to the dock to walk in and see. And I'm thinking later, there could have been alligators or snakes or anything in this water. We're out here walking around sloshing.

KM: Sharks.

HB: Anything! I mean, I don't know myself, I was not thinking, yeah, but I, I was thinking the office, more than anything the office, you know, what has it done. And so we had, we had to get rid of everything and I had to get somebody to come in and, like, cut the wall out. And we just replace from there down, Because I was like, if it ever happens again, we can just pop the things off, take that part down,

LW: That's smart.

HB: But even the shelves I would I wish like all the thrift stores or whatever as soon as you know because you had to have all this stuff. So I went and found all the stuff and brought it out. It's not new, But it's a dock office.

BP: It works.

KM: Yeah. Like who needs a new desk.

HB: Yeah.

BP: It works.

HB: I did put this one here like this. I had it back there as a L shape so that people couldn't come around. I had this one. One guy who would always come around and he'd lean over like this, like right here. Yeah he kind of hovered but so when I had a chance to do that, I'll put that right there. So he'd have to like walk up and go all the way around.

LW/BP: Yeah, yeah.

HB: Yeah. He he I mean he he wasn't a funny business or anything but he just got real close to the paper right up-

KM: In your bubble.

HB: Yes, in my space. So yeah, that was something I did. Do I purposely got this extra piece?

Yeah. Anyway.

BP: You talked a little bit about the people that you worked with and everything like that. Can you elaborate? Like, just tell us, like, describe the people that you worked with, or just tell us a little bit more about anyone that you worked with?

HB: Really. As far as in the office, Aunt Taffy's, the only one that I've ever worked with in the office. And she in her younger days was Stern and she didn't get run over by any of these guys out here and she was Miss Taffy or Aunt Taffy that was it. I mean you know and you didn't, you, you just watched your manners, you know, and she was a Boone. I mean, like, you know, like all the rest, they all know, they all have tempers you know.

KM: Gotcha.

[0:45:02](#)

HB: You know. She'll popped off real quick and tell you, you know, but as she got older, Um, she really really calmed, you know, it just, it just bellowed her out, um, especially being sick. There's a couple of times and before she passed away, she was just as sweet and just, you know, We, It's always been kind of, Attention down here about who owns the dock. You can't, it's hard to say it's our family's not because it makes it sound like you're saying, it's my family, like my little family, but it's not. I have to make it clear to people all the time. No, this is not our dock. This is a family owned docked. You know, multi-people. So, and that, that was always real sensitive with her. And then, I mean, Gabby my daughter. She she worked with me but it wasn't. It wasn't with me so much as for me when I needed her to, and outside. There's hundreds of people that have worked. I mean, it's usually it's usually somebody that either on a weekend is somebody, you know, a lot of times you can find a little better help because they've worked all week and they need an extra little something and, you know, and so so they're looking for something, but during the week, it's you get all kind of people down here. I mean you, I've I've had to make leave because the, you know, they have a beer over here in the corner, like, hey, oh, we can't do that, or you'd smell something funny, and I'll be like, all right, you gotta go, you know, you can't be down here doing that. And, so yeah, they we've had every kind, I mean, Young old and you know, we we unload freezer boats, it's out on the dock, and it's completely different than what I saw today. So the boat comes up and, They actually flip the other way and we're out on this side dock. To unload. You have to have a truck ready to be a freezer truck right there. They have hooks and they go hook up their bags, their bags of shrimp, okay, So, And they're frozen obviously and they swing them over and you've got like two or three guys, right there. They gotta catch them and then lift these bags. So they're 50, 60, 70 pound bags. Usually it averages 60, something pounds on a bag and then Frozen, and they are shrimp and they're sticking your fingers. And, you know, all this out there, everybody wants to do that job because it pays better. It pays better than being in here because it is harder work obviously. And It's so funny. Like I was saying earlier that, You get this little scrawny kid that you think I'm like, oh man. Imma be without a worker in about 10 minutes, you know? And and and he does it, he can do it, he can do it. The whole like Christopher he's not a you know big up he gets out there, he can do it all day long, all day long but I've had him small, like shorter without muscled arms, you



know. And I mean they can do it and then you get this big bulky, you know. And they'll quit and I'm like, Are you kidding me? I mean, this kid over here is doing it. You, you know, I mean, but do you know in there? But you should think they'd work out and stuff right? And, and no, they yeah. They-

LW: That ain't addin up.

HB: Yeah, It makes Absolutely no sense. Absolutely no sense at all. And I and I've tried to because used to, I'd be like, you know, you can't be judging when you're getting help, you're right? I mean, you're paying whatever, and it's a job, but I'd be like, no, man. You can't do that, you know, and they have to be with it because they could fall over. I mean, you know, you don't want them if it's low tide, you know? And they're trying to reach and grab that, you know? if they don't swing it over hard up hard enough. And then it scares me to death, but, you know, you got to have somebody that's got their senses about them because they got, you know, they need their balance and stuff like that. You know, you can't be out there and have a, you know, a beer over here in the corner or whatever it just it's just too dangerous and you don't think about it, you know until Something actually happens. But Anyway, get a lot of people down here, but it's so it's just, there's just every variety of every type of person, every ethnicity and and I mean, just every, you know, big small and we get a, it is completely diverse. Yeah. And and lately we've had actually and it's and it's helped us. I don't quite know how to say it, but, you know, we've had this big immigration issue and these people are just coming over the border and you know, Once that started happening and, and it's terrible. But, We don't have a problem finding people to work on the boats anymore and, you know, I had to learn because I wasn't sure how all that stuff worked at first, but you know, a lot of them do have work visas that, you know, they do it the right way. But, but you know, you get some and I'm like, look, I feel you don't have the paperwork, I'm not paying you because at the end of the year, I'm paying your taxes for you because I have nothing to turn in to show that I paid you. And So, so lately, probably the last, I will say two years. We've had I don't know if you saw the different guys down here that kind of they'd stand off to the side. They don't really, I don't know if grateful is the word because they're doing the work and they're getting paid for it, you know? But they're staying the guys, let them stay on their boats, you know? And all the ones that have worked for us. Now, I understand what I'm looking for. They all have their papers and stuff like that, but they'll come down and they'll try to work and it's like, okay, do you have a Visa? Do you have got to show me something? You know, and there's a lot that come down and can't do it, you know? But It's kind of been good for us too with that because they, they watch out for the place, you know, they don't want to be, they don't want somebody down here, prowling around and stealing something, and then getting blamed for it or something like that, you know? They act like they're scared to death of me. I don't know why.

[laughing]

KM: Are you no-nonsense to like Aunt Taffy?

[0:51:22](#)

HB: Well, I mean, yeah. I, you know, they don't try me. Do they just don't ever? They're, they're



just all but then see. I'm married to Greg and He's not a nice person to people sometimes like he's, you know, he's just to say it like I see it type of person. Very no nonsense. Like if he calls a spade, a spade and so and we ain't playing. And They are like how have you all been married 25 years, like because he's a fisherman and he leaves. He's gone for a week and then he comes home and by the time we get tired of each other, it's time for him to go out again.

That's the secret of marriage right there.

[Laughing]

KM: Okay, I'm taking notes.

HB: And he reminds me all the time like when I, I I used to work at a grocery store that was, Right here, it's been closed down for years but I was like 14-15 when I started working there and I remember, I didn't really know any shrimpers or anything like that. And but these guys would come in. Whatever day it was. And they cash their checks. And they stank. Oh my God. They stank. They stank so bad. And I swore I was never gonna be, the one person. I would not marry a fisherman, because I'm not dealing with that kind of stink because, you know, and I Course, I told Greg that one time and he and he laughed, but it's like He's like, yeah. But that's that's why you've got to be a captain because, and I was like, well, what's that got to do with it, you know, I mean, so he's like, well, on the way in, they have to shake the Nets out, you know, and all the stuff comes down. It gets on them and I'm like, okay, that makes sense. You know, and but he reminds me all the time, uh, how I was not gonna marry a fisherman.

LW: Never Say Never.

HB: I'm telling you.

LW: I swear, every time I've said it, it's happened.

HB: I'm telling you but I mean honestly I really I, I like my alone time. I like to be able to just get in my car and listen to a book on the way to wherever I'm going or whatever. And he'd never understand that. But it's just it's good for me and I think it works for him. That's all he's ever done. You know, is fish. So he was like 11. He's been fishing for 50, I can't do my math. They were his birthday is Monday. So Like 54 years. I mean, and literally his-

KM: That's like half a century.

HB: Yeah. His, uh, Security money. They send you a paper every year to kind of look at your stuff and he was 11 when they started taking taxes out on him.

KM/BP/LW: Wow.

LW: That's insane.

HB: I mean I know, 11 years old but he still went to school, obviously, until I think until he turned 16 and then he took off and he said, well not took off, but he got on a boat and went to somewhere else. And he was in another state when he turned 17, he told me, but it's just, that's all he's ever known. He's never known anything. Any different, And that's just.

LW: [inaudible]

HB: Yep. Yeah. and his son was the same. He was that young out on the boat with him and Summers in the Christmas breaks or whatever. And when he got to be around 15 he'd skip school every now and then to take the boat out for a day. Yeah. Like or like on a he'd skip on a Friday

and bring the boat back in on a Sunday and I'm like you can't let him do that but he didn't do it very often but it was just it was like God, it was only 15. He's a kid. But this kid's grown up and got his own, I don't know, Three hundred thousand dollar boat. I mean, you know, I mean, I said, I guess it, I guess it works but-

LW: And if you've been doing it since you were 11, I guess, you know, going out at 15 really ain't that big of a deal?

HB: No, no. I mean, and, and even his kids going out there which is why it was. So with Christopher, I was just like I don't know about this because he did he didn't, he was not a fisherman, he was not a hunter, it just snapped one day and he was, you know, he wouldn't shoot a deer, you know, and I know he'd give you the gun back and it's, I don't shoot deer either. But anyway, But that's just, you know, it's funny how the flip-flop like that or whatever. So alright, I don't want to keep you all day.

[laughing]

KM: We're okay with that but we don't wanna keep you all day.

LW: You're a busy woman.

KM: I know right?

HB: I'm just waiting on three more people to show up for the fish. So I'm here.

KM: Well, tell me a funny story that happened here at the dock.

HB: Oh these are not-

KM: I know.

HB: These are not funny people.

[laughing]

LW: It's you, you're the funny one. That's what it is.

HB: They're Really not. No, no, I'm Michael Michael Greg's son. He is the comedian. He is worse than Greg. He will tell you. He will have you like, oh my God, Covering your face. Like I don't know this person because he, he what comes up comes out. He does not hold back and it doesn't matter what the subject is. Yeah. I have to tell you all that of some other. I can't tell you. Yeah.

KM: Okay.

HB: About My granddaughter. He gave her a name.

BP: Oh, okay.

HB: And it was so funny. Her mama laughed. It was that it was just it was like oh my God you didn't just do that. You just said that I mean yeah. So he's one of those that he don't he don't hold back. I mean you know, somebody comes in here and you know they're like a non-drug addict or something like that you see him stumbling around. How much crack you had today?

[laughing]

HB: He's like that is that is him if y'all have to interview a fisherman you beware of that one because they sitting here and it's him and his cousin Michael and Brandon, Brandon, they come in the office when they're unloading and even when they're not they come in here and sit down or whatever and But might eat lunch or something. This is a free-for-all in here anymore. But boy,

they'll get to talking and I'm over here like and they'll be whoever on this couch, they'll be over there, you know, and I'm in the crossfire. I'm just like.

[laughing]

HB: I'm trying to ignore what they say but then that one thing comes across and Michael knows I heard it, he knows I did it because he tells from the body to the language or whatever, you know. And I'm just like when the customers come in I'm just like don't watch your mouth, you gotta don't. You know. Because He will, he'll say, what does not need to be said at any, absolutely inappropriate time. So yeah. He's a funny one but it's not. On purpose. I don't, I don't know. I don't know if it is or not. Maybe it is. But uh, yeah. He's a funny one to be around. Yeah but I, I don't I mean like any kind of funny that I mean other than little joke stuff that goes on things they found on the boat.

KM: Oh, what kind of things?

LW: I want to know about this.

BP: I know.

HB: Well, all I'm saying, Is I walked into the office one day, and this ledge that's right here. There was this certain thing, that had a suction cup on the bottom. It was stuck and it was sitting there. I'm like, oh my God, what is this? Where did it come from? But we found that on the boat. Uh, I'm not on the boat, drag, it was in our drag. I'm like, What?! Are you kidding me? No. I thought you'd want to see it, I'm like, why would I want to see it?!

[laughing]

[0:59:02](#)

KM: You're the only woman that works here.

[laughing]

HB: I'm not kidding y'all, that's the, that's Michael, Okay.

KM: That's a great story.

LW: Yeah, that was beautiful.

KM: Yes oh man, yeah.

HB: I mean, I can imagine what I look like though when I cut and I'm like I mean that nobody touched it bare hands or anything like that, gross, Gross, GROSS! but it was just like Why you don't think it's funny? I'm like, not in my windows.

KM: And customers coming in here.

[laughing]

HB: And then we didn't a thing. I just got these blinds, not long ago. There was no blinds. That's Michael for you. So yeah, every now and then we have something like that happen.

KM: That's funny.

HB: Yeah

LW: That's hysterical.

HB: Yeah. They're oh yeah. Yeah.

BP: So what about the best memory you have? Because we asked you about the funny one. Like do you have a favorite memory or anything like that?

HB: Oh, I'm not a touchy feeling and I'm really not. My kids will tell you that they're like my oldest daughter. She's like, you did not hug me growing up. Yes you did. I sent her a picture the other day. I'm like, I did see.

[laughing]

HB: She said I look pissed off and I was like, well, you were.

LW: That's why I hugged you.

BP: I knew you needed it.

HB: She got married down here a couple years ago.

KM: On the dock?

HB: It was very last minute. Yeah. Just all of us just standing around, no decorations or anything like that.

KM: That's so sweet.

HB: She just had her little thing and I'm just like you were not just going somewhere and getting married. You could at least, you know-

LW: We gonna have a little something.

HB: Yeah I text my friend, she's a radio station. What do you call a DJ? And I was just saying, but she can marry people. I'm like, hey, I need you And, and she come down and she married them out there and. But there's a lot of stuff, the blessing of the fleet. I mean it was last weekend and that's a big deal for us. It was to my mama, too, because she, it was like, the biggest deal. It was, there was a whole like plan for the whole weekend, like, and it was every year, this is what we did, you know, and on Sunday, everybody got on the boat and you know, we didn't we normally don't ever decorate or anything like that but, But it's just fun, it's just fun for everybody, you know, to get down here and they're all having a drink or whatever, it's no work involved, just you know, ride the boat down the river and back and it's kind of weird this year because Greg is walking around with me on the boat some because Christopher was driving, I'm just.

KM: Oh God.

HB: Yeah, I'm trying to try to keep my cool. Yeah.

KM: That's so funny like driving a car for the first time but a boat. Like-

HB: Yeah, wait, I mean, I remember, That same boat that he pulled up to the dock. It was this little tiny boat. It was almost the smallest one that was here at the time. And, I hate, I mean, like, what is that? Stern is in the back, the bow the boat. Okay, so where your points up in the front that he literally had that at the, at the end of the dock down there. So I know, you know, I get him boat and we go out and whatever and, While we're out there. I'm seasick. I can't deal. So I'm laying down but this is an open. Room type thing. It's not like these bigger boats with the bunks and stuff. They were bunks, but it was, you know, The wheel was right there and the stove was right there. So, it was like little tiny thing. And, he would say that he'd say, hey, come here a minute, I'd go up to the front. He said, hold on to this for a second I'm like what? Whoa, no, no, no, no. And I mean, I'm freaking out because I'm, he's telling me to hold, but just follow that line right there. I'll be right back. I'm just going to the bathroom. I'm like, no, no, we could be on bottom by the time you get back.

[laughing]

HB: I don't know what I'm doing here but then I figured out that it's I mean you know with the modern day stuff, you've got the lines. You follow the line, Okay, I can do that but I don't want to do that. But that's how you know, with them out there for him learning. That's, that's kind of how he's doing it. So, Anyway, but yeah, I like I think it's more, the get together type things that, That we do down here. We used to, before everybody, passed away before his granddaddy passed away, they would have like, a big Thanksgiving, or something down here, and all the family. And it's so funny, because I was looking for pictures the other day, and I saw some of the pictures from that, that one that I remember. And everybody was so young, but it had to be like 2000 or something. I mean, I because the kids well, I didn't have kids. I only had one, it was just Gabby. She wasn't very big at all. She was being a past around, you know, like the whole family because it's a huge family, you know. Greg's daddy had six kids. Aunt Taffy had four. Uncle Mack only had one. Who else? Uncle Dan had three, no Uncle Dan had one. Had a set of twins. And so four, he had four and then, Uncle Dawn had had three, so that was a lot of. I mean it's a really big family.

KM: A lot of cousins.

HB: Yeah and most of them are pretty good. They're not they're not, Yeah, everybody's got that Troublemaker but, Really. Like one. So, it's not bad.

KM: There's bound to be one.

HB: Yeah, oh yeah, yeah, but yes, I mean that's really the only things I can think of just, and it's not really dock related as much as it is. I'll just get togethers and stuff. So, watching the fireworks, do stuff like that, you know. They always do it at the, at the blessing on Saturday night everybody. We all get on the go eat and whatever and drink or something and watch the fireworks. And it was kind of funny because Greg's brother used to fish down here for years, who his whole life, just like Greg did and just one day He was divorced and his, his new wife, and her brother owned the fireworks store. So, He's up in Tennessee that he would bring down. We'd buy fireworks for me. So he brought these fireworks down and so the blessings they do their big fireworks show. Pyromaniac, Michael and Greg, and his brother. Set off fireworks that like they did their big finale and all that stuff and They set off fireworks down here and everybody was calling. They were like, what do y'all doing? You know, the first year, okay? The second year, they kind of expected It, wasn't sure, but they and they did it again. The year before last, the fireworks went off down there and then they stopped, so they set off theirs. But then all of a sudden they get done. If they start theirs again.

KM: It's a battle now.

[1:06:17](#)

HB: That's what we thought. I'm like. Oh my God, they planned that, but there was some sort of little, like there was like a small fire or something right there where they were at over there and they had to stop. But it was so neat, though. It was like, do you know what it kind of like dual banjos or whatever, you know, going back and forth, but he didn't come down this year so we didn't get our fireworks. So we didn't do it.

LW: I would have been so upset.

HB: I know, Well, I was like they're gonna expect it to y'all tell them we're not doing fireworks. And they're like everybody was on the boat or y'all doing it. He's like no, we're not doing man. You know, it's all right here, over the water, which we do them at our house too. So we have a big fourth of July thing out there anyway. That's not about the dock though.

LM: It's close enough. Are there any other like traditions that y'all doing or anything like that like get togethers other than?

HB: I think our main thing is between the blessing of the Fleet and everybody doing the boat ride on that Sunday and watching the fireworks. That's probably just like I said, that Fourth of July thing, we do at our house. It's a big, it's a big thing for us family. But it's I mean it could be 60-70 -150, people we were you know every year just so it's a big thing but we don't that's really all down here. I mean since the family is so spread out now that most, most of them are still here but there's just nobody's really tried to organize like a get-together with all of them and it's kind of been talked about but and that I remember, maybe something we need to work on but But really, there's not no. I mean, I haven't changed the way she's run anything, you know? I mean what she was doing Worked. You know, I don't have a computer. This is my computer. This little calculator right here.

LW: That's all you need.

HB: This is how I do everything. It's all on paper. So yeah, unless you get a flood and lose all your papers, Then you know it works and go back and find stuff, but yeah that's all. Really don't.

KM: I know you talked a little bit about changes in an industry like you know all of the railways closing down and the ice, you know, the [slots] of ice disappearing and what other changes do you think there's been like weather has that, has that, has the office ever flooded before that time in 2017?

HB: Not that I know of, not that I know of. Because it was so crazy. But I mean every hurricane that's coming since they get it here and they put big blocks those you know like a cement blocks.. And they lift these guys at all come in and lift my stuff up and put it on the blocks and everything will waist down, gets put up on something.

KM: Gotcha.

HB: So we save it off and then it's never happened again. But every single time. It's like the one time you didn't do it. But that taught us a lesson so no it's just it's never floated. I mean, I guess the only thing with the industry itself, you know, when you see it change is when all the Imports started it hurt it. I mean like, back in 2007, it killed us. You know, the fuel prices were up really high and then, you know, the Imports were coming in. And at that time they did what I think it was called the bird act and each year we could apply and we would get a little something back, but then these big companies who were buying foreign shrimp were applying also, And they were getting money back too. So they were getting millions and we were getting Ten thousand and and ten thousand might sound like a lot, but it is not a lot when you're losing, you know, and having to put, you know, an average Railway bills like eight thousand, ten thousand they could go on up from there. I mean, it's so that's not really. We make a lot of money, but we spend a lot

of money, usually, a lot more, but. And so, so that happened and for those few years, we'd get like a kickback or whatever you want to call it, based off of what we caught that year and then it stopped. And, Yeah, I don't, I don't know. I guess, I guess one thing that bothers me about the whole industry is that we don't fall under agriculture even though you would think we would.

KM: Because you're harvesting food.

HB: Exactly. But we don't fall under agriculture. So when we have a loss, You know somebody's cow dies, they get paid. We you know don't something happens to freeze or something, we lose our shrimp nothing, we don't get anything from that. Only time that we've been paid, Was back in 2018. Then, I think it was like, a really cold cold winter. The shrimp were really small and I think she said, she explained it to y'all this morning. That the three mile line you can go outside. So, Georgia state waters were closed. But outside that Three Mile line, there were different people fishing, and they were catching these teeny tiny shrimp which were meant to grow into the bigger shrimp that they would catch for the spring. And so, the federal government come in and close the waters. And that, Greg said he, that never happened like that he'd known of. So then they didn't open them back up until like June or something. And usually we're out there April May like now you know, just getting started or whatever. So it got into June before we could go fish. Well, like I said, that was 2018. This past year, we had a Got a new, We've got a new, shrimp association, the Georgia commercial fisherman's Association and, Had a meeting. And one of the ladies from the DNR was talking about these checks, and I'm like checks, let me get the check for, We got a check for, Let's see. It was 2023 for 2018. I won't tell you how much it was. It was, it was, it was, it was good.

KM: Yeah.

HB: I'm not complaining.

BP: Yeah.

HB: You know? But it and it's one of those that was actually Helpful, but it was in five years. Yeah, before, you know, before they sent it, sent it to us and I don't get it. And we just got One little check before I think back in 2013 and I want to say it was like 20 or 21 when we got that. So the industry doesn't get any help I mean and and what I don't think is like you just don't you don't think about it. You think the dock's going to run regardless? But they're not. If those boats aren't fishing, we're not bringing shrimp in and because we make our money per pound every pound they bring in, the dock makes, you know, packing off of it and we don't charge a lot of packing because it's always been family. We don't charge a lot over average like on what it takes us to make the ice or the fuel or any, you know, so that but that's how we make our living. And, and this dock can't run unless these fishermen are fishing, you know? So it's it's I guess were all in it together. But, But when it happens, you know, you got we'll, we'll pay a load of fuel out there. We put in, A decent load of fuel eighteen thousand dollars. And then fuel goes up and we're up into 34-36,000 for the set. I mean, double, you know, and and the way and I most I don't know how other docks do it but with our dock, They get the fuel, they get the ice, it's all wrote down, they go out, they catch the shrimp, they come back we and I do their statement and then we take the fuel and ice that they got out. So it's always a wait to get your money but that's just

how it is. And it's what works, but, it's it, it's hard. I mean when fuel went up like it did and then and then on top of that the shrimp prices went down. And you would think oh the dock's still getting their price per pound. But when it's so low that they won't go out and even try because, you know, then we're not we're losing out too. So the price of the, of the, of the fuel, and Price of the shrimp. It's bad. Like this year, it's over three dollars a gallon. Now we use off-road fuel, you know, with a red dye in it. So you Can't use it on the road but you don't get taxed for it so we can sell it for a lot less than what you can go and get diesel at the pump. So we're usually around the same thing as As unleaded, something like that. So, but we're still oh, you know, over three dollars, a gallon, a couple years ago-

[1:14:48](#)

KM: You told me a pound of shrimp was like \$3.75 earlier or something?

HB: Today. That was what the shrimp went for today. A couple of days ago. A different buyer paid \$4.50. But those are shrimp. That should be Should be paying \$5.50 - \$5.75, you know and and every now and then you know, even even when they were say \$5.50, I could call, you know, out to Big John's or whatever like hey, these shrimp look really good, they're really fresh, you know, you think you pay another quarter on them or something and you know, or you know, I need Christmas money, you can, can you help me out here another quarter, you know, whatever. But and, and that can happen because it just depends on who it is and how the shrimp look and stuff like that. But still, I mean, but with it being down \$3.50 for Something that should cost, You know, five to six dollars and you go in a grocery store and you're still paying \$12 -14 or whatever. I mean, The price in there hasn't gone down, you know, but our price has, and it's all because of the Imports. I mean, that is because our buyers that should be buying local shrimp from us are buying imported shrimp. And for so cheap, I mean, they send them in cheap and we don't have any, I want to make it political or anything, but but this kind of is because, Before Trump got out of office, our fuel was down to 99 cent a gallon for the for the boats. The shrimp price was up around six dollars \$5.75, six dollars even. And and for the bigger shrimp for, not not exactly a jumbo. But the, the next size up from what we had today, the bigger ones, we, we could get \$6.25- 6.50. Okay. And that's for the same, you know, that was then a couple years later, we're down to \$3.50 a pound for shrimp. There's no, Tariffs on Any of these shrimp that's coming in. So before there were tariffs and they did, so it the price, they they sold them for, higher, obviously, took care of their tariffs or whatever. And so so now None of that's in place anymore. I mean, I don't know if y'all watch y'all watch or whatever, but you know, day one, he comes in and takes that Biden took out everything, and it's just like, And it's not even an opinion, it's just the facts. This is who was in office, and this is what's happened. And when this one, you know, and it and how, it's affected us. I mean, and I don't, I mean, we don't, well, of course, they'll talk politics and stuff. But, I try to be as neutral as I can about stuff like that but that is just, I mean it hits you in the face when you're paying three times three dollars and eight cents today for fuel and that's for fuel that I bought. A month ago or more over a month ago. So I know that it's gone up higher since then. So yeah, I mean all this stuff happening in Washington and wherever I mean it's a trickle down and it really does hurt us. And people don't but, I hate to



preach in the choir or whatever, y'all probably already, you know, be imports, they have all these antibiotics in them and all that stuff. They're terrible for people and they don't have a clue. And I just read somewhere where they, They were, there's some new act, they're trying to get going but it's because America can't fund another country and use those funds to fund something That's going to put businesses in America out of business. Does that make sense?

LW: Yeah.

KM: Kind of yeah.

HB: Okay, so we can't give India money that they're going to use for their shrimp industry and it hurt us to put us out of business.

KM: Right. Gotcha.

HB: So it's so it's, So there's a big I guess probe looking into that or, you know, there's something there's something going. There's a Bill. I was just reading it the other night. So we've got a shrimp Association. Now, like I said, we had one and it wasn't active. And so a friend of mine, a fisherman's wife in Savannah, called me. And she said, well, we got to do this. Okay, and she talked me into being vice president, but I'm not a good vice president. She is an excellent president, she really is. She, she, She can she's gotten things going. And she's trying to start new things to help us over here. She's been talking to other states. I mean she's got she's, she doesn't hesitate to call the Senator's office or whatever. She is. She was named 'that woman'.

KM: Okay?

KM: By Some, I don't know somebody in Louisiana, that's what she was that woman because she's stirring up so much stuff.

KM: Gotcha.

HB: But You know. So, but it's it's, you know, maybe You can get things going because,-

LW: Good for her

HB: Well, we've got a whole board now. I mean like this. It's a, it's a really good, you know, and everything is transparent, we everything's emailed, it's all, you know. You don't spend a dime, you know, and we didn't start out with any money. So she spent her money doing it, you know, that kind of thing. But, I guess the point is, if it helps the boat, it's going to help us.

BP: Right.

HB: We won't make any more a pound, but we'll get more pounds.

KM: Yeah.

HB: You know, and the dock has been able to, Mainly, I feel like it's from the sales of the ice to other boats and yeah even our boats.

LW: Right.

HB: That 's it's we were able to, Completely, you know, redo the front of the dock. It took a little bit, you know, ice machined is around 35,000 or so. So I mean it's it you can take a hit with that. But I feel like it's kind of helped around here the numbers and stuff like that. The docks never been bad off because it's just, you know, there's always steady fished but, I don't know. We I don't know if y'all know what that is. Y'all see the hooks? Those hooks hanging down.

[1:20:43](#)

LW: Yeah.

KM: Mhm

HB: That's what they used to pull the ice in.

LW/BP/KM: Oh.

HB: Like they can grab around, so they would pull it. If there'd be a thing in the truck out there, and it slide down the truck way over on the side and then it would slide in this little, you know, and you just have to slide it on down and then it would get to where it goes to crush. And, you know, so I just look at I just, you know, decoration now but it was a serious, like a work tool at one time.

KM: Wow.

HB: So it's kind of funny. Yeah.

LW: I like that. Yeah. Have you seen like any changes in say the water like maybe what y'all catch during each year, like has it changed over the years or-

HB: Only-

LW: Anything like that?

HB: Only thing I've noticed is fish. It got really the last I don't know, probably five or six years in a row I could get they would bring me in so many fish. I couldn't sell 'em.

KM: Really?

HB: And those were the days I hated. But, I, and I really if my customers, I think they didn't believe me, because, you know, You got different good customers and oh, you sell it to the other guy, not me, but it's not like that. I'm like something is going on. We were not catching the fish. This is the first year that we've started off like this. And he had, you know, almost 400 pounds of fish today and usually, it's Whiting and flounder, but those flounder are real rare. He had a pile of them out there today.

LW: I was about to say, Yeah, yeah.

KM: I got on the shrimp boat and was like well that's flounder, that's squid, I don't know what that I don't know what that is.

[laughing]

HB: But yeah, it is, it was, it's I mean, like, wow, you're gonna be like this because usually the water warms up and then you don't get any fish until it gets pulled off again. But this is just, I don't know. Just to start out this first, you know, this is the first day I've worked in the months, i mean like officially worked. And like like I said, three or four years, nothing and they'd be calling. I'm like, man, I can't even get 10 pounds. I don't have, I mean, I'm not sure, but fish I I'm like, I don't have it. They're not the little bit that they would catch. They just take home with the money or give to the crew or whatever. It wasn't worth trying to sell. So yeah, that's that's probably the biggest difference. And we'll see how this year goes, but but it's been That actually affected the bottom of the bottom line with the dock too, because we whereas we only made per, per pound with the shrimp packing, when we sell shrimp, we I probably charge a dollar extra maybe, but we don't sell that much shrimp. You know, to just individual buy, just people walk it up fish, however, you know, you could buy for two dollars and sell for \$3- 3.50, whatever. So

you're making a, you know, and you're making it off of 100 pounds. Somebody wants instead of two pounds, you know? So for a lot of years, it was like, dang, you know, you keep it on record and see and then all of a sudden, it just dropped off and there was no fish to sell, So you weren't making that extra money, and it did make a difference at the end of the year. But so maybe this year or something. Maybe something's happened, I don't know.

LW: So far so good.

HB: Even Greg, he's been in his business how many years, And he's like, he had an awful lot of flounder in that, you know, that's that's unusual. So I mean for him to call it out, you know, and seeing him like he has but something something's up. I don't know what it is

LW: Right.

HB: I hope it's up anyway because we need fish.

KM: Yeah.

HB: As much as I hate them, you know, as long as they take them off the boat early. But what they would do to me is that we would unload all the shrimp and then they would get the fish off. You can't sell the fish until, you know, exactly how many you have. Finally got them to take the fish off first so I can be selling these things while y'all are working. Let me work while you work so I'm not here.

KM Till midnight trying to sell fish.

HB: Yeah, yeah and that's really I mean that is really There's, you know, if we had to we could put them in a cooler with ice overnight or something. But I don't like to do that because, you know, I don't want to get in trouble.

BP: Right.

HB: Or Whatever. But there's Yeah. Anyway yeah, that's not probably the biggest.

LW: The biggest one?

HB: Yeah, to me just being in here.

LW: Right? Yeah, what you hear? And see and stuff. Yeah. Interesting.

BP: What about covid did that affect y'all in any way? Or?

[Laughing]

HB: Let me tell y'all what happened. You want a funny story. I got you.

KM: Okay, here we go.

LW: I'm ready.

HB: There was this lady, Okay, I'll say her name. Annie.

[laughing]

[1:25:09](#)

HB: She, for years, she come down here and Aunt Taffy would front her fish. Even up to a couple hundred pounds well then she'd come back down to get more fish and pay for the fish she got last time. So this worked out. This has been working out for years and years and years. Aunt, Taffy. Is out of the business, you know, as far as dealing with the dock day to day, so this woman would call her at her house, you know? And she'd be like, I don't know. You have to ask her, you know, call down to the dock. Well, anyway, she, She wasn't getting any fish. I didn't have any

fish. Couldn't give her what it didn't have, okay. And so, Well, first of all, what she did was when we finished fishing, say December, January of that year, she still owed money. Okay. Normally she would pay it when she come back. She didn't, she waited until the springtime. The dock was not hurting for the money. It's only you know it might have been a thousand dollars or something like that. It's not if we were living off of that, we need to close doors. But anyway, so she waited until the next spring. So when she finally paid it, she wanted more fish. And I was like, well look, you're gonna have to pay for the fish when you get them I can't I can't front them to you anymore and she got mad. Okay, this is during covid.

BP: Yeah,

HB: Okay, so she got mad and And she's one of the she really does have a mental problem. She's seriously been put away a couple of times and I think, I think she's in jail right now. But she is one of those people who I'm not kidding. She's serious. She she's a, And don't take this the wrong way because she really is this type of a Bible Thumper she wants you to, she wants to preach to you and she wants you know but she don't live by what she's talking and that's why I call that you know,

LW: Right, Right.

KM: Okay.

HB: I don't have a problem with any you know but with her knowing that she was how she was and and then she'd, you know, real judgmental.

LW: Yep.

HB: You know, told my daughter, she didn't marry that baby's daddy, you know that kind of thing.

LW: I know what you I grew up around that.

HB: I mean and so she's like that. I mean and she's well around that I know. Okay, so she comes down here and I'm telling her I can't. I can't front you any shrimp and all that stuff, but she gets mad and she gets up and walks out of the office walks up to one of the guys working and she said how much you get paid an hour? And then walks up To another one, they take taxes out on you here? Like we're doing something under the table. Well, all these guys that were anybody that comes up to work. We pay them straight up. And at the end of the year, we send them a 10.99 they've made enough to get one. That's how we do that. So the boy says, no, they don't take taxes out of it because they don't take because we don't take taxes out of his check, right? So she's out here, doing all this stuff and I'm over here like What are you doing? And so she comes back in here and she says, Uh, oh, she said Y'all wasn't hurting for that money, you didn't need it. And I said well who are you to say If a business needs its money or not, it's not your money? I said, she said. Something along the lines of if you go to the bank. And that stuff, it did not make any sense. Anyway, my point was okay, lady you go to the bank, You get a loan. You don't pay your loan. They come pick up your car, this is how this works. You know, they're not going to loan you any more money. You know, so I finally got my car, which was, you know, the money back from the last one. I ain't giving you no more. We're done, we're good. And she kept coming up here. She'd leave and she'd come back and all that. And anyway she, We were all standing

around outside and it was COVID. And I say, all of us, it was probably like four or five of us down here, um, and no different than we've ever done, you know, but it wasn't like a big crowd. Nobody was working or anything, five or six people, police officer pulls up.

BP: Oh god.

KM: What did she do.

HB: This woman, doesn't she done called the sheriff's department and told them a bunch of rich, White people were, They're a bunch of rich, white people were congregating at the dock. We was congregating at the dock and I'm over here. Like are you kidding now and just listen.

KM: Like this my dock.

[laughing]

HB: There's I mean, and this is this is this for me is not like a white-black thing. That is not. We have a lot of you know, we have everybody down here and these men have been friends for years and all this stuff but whatever but we're like, dude what? So we went ahead and got a thing took out on her. She was served, she could not come back down to this dock at all again. And she, She went somewhere and was running her mouth about the dock about them. Rich white people. I'm like, what in the world woman? Anyway, if you ever passed your house, she lives in this little house and it's right across the street from the elementary school, and she's got boards out like in her yard and they're all Bible verses written. Like I mean she's really seriously something wrong with her but she here at me like that I mean I'm just like lady. You can't tell other people what they could do with their money. I mean if you owe it you pay it. I don't have to credit you, I do not have to do that and there's really only one or two people. It's one old man. And you know what, He's black. Thank you. I said older and we've been doing it and he still pays. He sends somebody with the money he comes down here. He'll call me where you've been. I ain't seen you at the dock. I need to give you this money, you know. So it's not even it was just her and her attitude, no issue but it was so funny that was my COVID.

[1:30:47](#)

LW: Yeah, right. That's insane.

HB: It's ridiculous.

LW: She's got all the Bible verses and then she

HB: Girl, I mean I'm talking about 50-60 boards. I'm not kidding. I'm not talking about just one or two and she's-

KM: We gotta go drive around and find this house.

LW: We have got to find this.

HB: She has got it. And if it's still there, she's got a small shrimp boat in her yard. I don't think it's got the Outriggers on it, but it literally, she had something about she'd come into some money one time and bought a boat. I don't know, but she's real crooked. She had like the um, handicap mentally, handicapped too, people that would live with her and she would get their money.

LW/BP/KM: Ohhhhhhhh.

HB: She, you see what I'm saying. I mean, she's not, she's not a good person. I'm pretty sure she punched somebody in the head and ended up in jail last. I heard.

KM: Oh, wow.

HB: Yeah, But it's not this right down the road down there. It's by the, there's a pharmacy. There's a church on one side of the street, the pharmacy, on the other side of the street, and you just turn down that road and it's right across from the elementary school. It's not, I mean like right down the road. Yeah. But,

LW: Everybody else was worried about a virus and you worried about-

HB: yeah. She was crazy, crazy.

KM: It sounds like it.

HB: Because you know, that's how my mama was really sick like real real sick. And I was all about, you know, y'all stay away from me because I don't want to catch anything to take home to her because she was like, already dying that I did not need, you know, I mean, I didn't want it to be me, they brought it home to her my daddy or something.

KM: Right?

HB: So yeah, it was, uh, we were real careful around here about stuff like that. white people congregating.

BP: Rich White People

HB: Rich-

KM: Yeah, like what?

HB: And I remember something that day about her telling me, well, you got money, y'all got money down here. Oh yeah. Y'all don't need this money. I'm like lady. Yeah.

KM: You took the fish. You cooked, you ate the fish, you cooked, the fish, you sold the fish, whatever you did with them.

HB: That's yeah,

LW: She sold them.

HB: she would sell them. Yeah. That's what she did. That's what she would come. So often she'd get like 100 or 200 pounds of fish. So, she made her money back, but instead of coming back and paying,

LW: Okay.

HB: She waited until the springtime, I guess come up with some money and wanted to start it all over again. So yeah. Annie

LW: Interesting.

HB: Crazy Annie. And her brother's a fisherman. He's,-

LW: So then why was she? That doesn't make no sense.

HB: I guess she just had that at one point she wasn't so crazy and had that relationship with Aunt Taffy here at the dog and she knew that she could come and get fish so she would always come down here and get them. And she was a really good customer at one point. Like I could call and say, look, Annie, I got 300 pounds of fish down here. Can you take them? You know, it she would say Yeah, I'll come get them, you know, and it was fine like that, you know, until she started doing the things that she was doing. And she just got worse and worse and worse and we don't mess with Annie no more.

LW: Was it just age or was it?

KM: I was like is it substances?

BP Right.

HB: I think, I really, I really think she's got mental issues. Like, I'm pretty sure that she's been locked up at least twice like in a mental institution, type thing, which is crazy. Because how are you gonna let them people live with, you know, release these people to her and get their checks every month. When you've been locked? I mean For crazy not for just depression or just, you know. I mean I mean I say that lightly, you know what I'm saying? I mean like crazy but anyway. Yeah,

LW: wow. That's insane. That is crazy.

HB: Rich white people.

[Laughing]

HB: And she's what about this tall? This big around. Yeah she was something, something I don't want to deal with anymore. So yeah she got her. She got served, she got her papers. They even told us. No, they don't. Yeah, he did. Tell us. No, he didn't. He didn't tell us who it was. As soon as he said what he said. I said, I know exactly who that was and told you all that. So we just kicked her out of here. That's why she called you, I said, but why are you here? Let's do some paperwork. Yeah, that woman's crazy. Do this. The only person we've ever Done that to just flat out band. I mean I have Kicked one boat away from the dock myself. For them, they were fighting the boy didn't understand percent and decimal points and how all that works. And and then the, but the, but the guy was trying to rip him off a little bit too. At the same time, I could see, I saw both. I saw that he didn't understand to start with, but I also saw what he was trying to do, but what he thought he was trying to do is not what he was trying. You know what I'm saying that? He walked out the dock that boy just come around and deck him in the head and I was like, nope, nope, nope, called the police. I was like, I've got to go. So they went next door.

[laughing]

[1:35:41](#)

KM: Sent them on.

HB: on next door. Yeah that's I mean they didn't have a choice. Had to go somewhere. That was the only other dock you know, right here. Everything else is public. Now you know, you have to I guess pay to be down there or whatever in the city or whatever it is. On the city or whatever it is. I don't know. They sell off everything around here.

LW: Yeah.

HB: Yeah. I don't mean to keep you off from y'all's lunch. Y'all ain't bothering me at all. I'm sitting here waiting.

LW: We're having a fun time.

BP: Yeah. We're getting there.

HB: Yeah, because I'm here anyway,

KM: until the last fish are gone, right?

HB: Yeah, yep. Got three of them waiting on them. Yeah. Right here. Got at least two of them.

I'm waiting on the other one said he won't be here till later.

KM: When you think about the future of the commercial fishing industry in Georgia, like what do docks need to be successful, to make sure that the industry is still going to be here?

HB: It all revolves around the price and I think that if like, it just specifically here at this dock, if we had, A way to to store, not just store but to freeze, you know, for the, So we could have it year round. To have a facility like that here and somebody that's, you know, working all day every day, Monday through Saturday, you know, They could, you'd sell the shrimp for a better price, you would be able to pay. The dock would make a little extra off of it. The fishermen because when I sell shrimp and prices are low like this, somebody comes in Um, I might sell the shrimp just, say, six dollars or \$6.50. I give the fisherman five dollars, that's not what they're supposed to get. But I, you know what I mean? I'm not going by these low prices. If I can sell them and get rid of them. I don't feel right. Keeping all the money knowing that, you know, we all need it. And so, So I do, I do try to kind of sometimes up the price at just a little bit. Just, you know, about \$3.50 versus You know, five even five dollars. I mean, the five dollars is you could if we didn't go less than five, that would be good. But that's the kind of thing. Because this kind of stuff is just going to put people out of business. You've got really good solid fishermen like we have at our dock and that's Greg, big Ricky you know they've been doing this their whole life Little Ricky, and Michael and and there's others that aren't family here. Now, but then there's ones that, you know, of that are struggling and they can, they can't afford Anything to happen. It's the type of industry where you have to have 25 -30, 000 just Hidden the hole so when that engine messes you know that kind of thing. So you have to be able to get back off your feet and if and there's you know, when they first started doing Imports, like an 04, 07 right around in those few years. So many people went out of business, I mean they couldn't afford it, they could not afford it and The Coast Guard has put so many. Restrictions, um, on things right there, they're hurting us, they're hurting us really bad. I mean, some of the stuff that they're requiring. Don't they want these guys to go to safety trainings. These are guys who have run these boats. Yes, ma'am, yes, ma'am. Greg has refused. I'm sure he's gonna get put in jail, one of these days. But the coast got the guard, the head, he won't even talk to him. He, he just avoids him completely because they didn't like he don't want to be he don't make he don't mess with Greg. So he Doesn't deal with him. He just that he you're supposed to get a sticker. So say your Coast Guard approved to be able to go out Greg Does not get that sticker. Because he refuses some of the stuff that they're making them do like having, there's like a two-day train and they have to go get, and Bryan would know about that but it's where, you know, they have to do a CPR class. They have to do Um getting put put on their survival suits in a certain amount of time, you know, all this kind of stuff and and I see where that kind of stuff is important, but I'm gonna tell you right now, the same thing, Greg says, he is not kissing another man to do CPR, it ain't happening, so that ain't happening. He don't, he don't need no CPR but she has taken it before but that's not the point. And then also, You know. They know how to put on survival suits and even the best person out there. Could like, Not get theirs on in time or something. It's all about what's happening when it's happening. I mean,



LW: Hey you can go to training for days and days and days when stuff happens.

HB: Yeah, an emergency. Yeah, yeah. It's not just gonna kick in that minute. Like the life rafts we've had this boat made. Especially and it's at an actual boat that you can sit in, they won't approve that but they approve a, like, not a foam. I don't know what that stuff. The big orange ring thing with a net up underneath it, so your butt will be dangling in the water with the sharks. Oh no ma'am. No,

[1:40:44](#)

KM: you're already pulling basically chum bags.

HB: Exactly. Exactly. Yeah. And then, What else was it?, but my point is that these are things that are hurting us because we're having to buy, you know, like flares. We got so many flares on our boat that are out of date. I mean we do get our fire extinguishers, players, all that stuff. We get our stuff every year. But, They, they expire, you know, and then you have to buy more and they cost every year, it seems like they're going up and there's like this one company has the market or whatever and they're just they every year so and there's there's also one thing and I know I talk about the boat a lot but I guess I deal with that kind of stuff so much with with our own boat. That one of the things that, that they're doing is if a boat is a certain length, they're putting those trackers on them, they want the tracker on it, but the problem is there's a, there's an app on your phone and when you have that tracker on anybody in the ocean, can see where you're at and Greg, he says not doing it.

LW: Right.

HB: That's like Coca-Cola giving their, you know, their ingredient list to somebody. You know, he's worked for over 50 years to figure out exactly where you're supposed to go. But he's got it marked out on his stuff and anybody in the world can just go follow, you know, follow his tracks. He said he's not doing it and then-

KM: His numbers huh?

HB: And then a boat that's just a little bit smaller than that. Doesn't have to have one and it's doing the same thing, same Industry that there's nothing except a couple of feet on the boat. That's the difference and he has to, and they don't. So he's waiting on them to require him to do it, so they can take it to court. It's just not.

LW: That's ridiculous.

HB: And they're also talking-

KM: That's like GPS locations?

HB: It's exactly what it is. Yeah, I can call Christopher. And I'm like, well I don't know if so-and-so's coming in or not he says hold on. No, he's still. He's still way up at Northern. He's dragging. I'm like Okay. That's how specific it is. You can see the boat's name and everything. Yes,

KM: wow.

HB: And I just got it, The thing I got the other day. A letter, apparently someone who was at a meeting with it was a coast guard thing and just some of the things they're considering doing is, Having the whole boat, Do a drug test before they leave the dock each time.

LW: Are you serious?

HB: Dead serious. How can I mean if something happens on the boat, first thing you do is get somebody drug tested.

KM: Like if they get injured or something?

HB: Right, Okay. Getting a drug test just like any other job.

LW: Exactly

HB: But yeah so that's the kind of things that they're coming at us with and it's just like, man. Give us a break, you know, and and because when it affects them like that and they, you know, have a bad year, they can't afford, you know, all this kind of stuff, they've got to have It affects the dock because bottom line, you know, but if we could if we had a place you know these different docks had a place like the facilities to do that kind of stuff to be able to keep shrimp year around the freezers. You could, you could sell them for more money and help them, you know, because I'm not about that. Until somebody tells me I got to do it different. That is the way I've been doing it. I'm trying to give them as much as I can with the doc still making a little something. And I do know that every single time. He unloads, Greg, He'll he was, he started taking a couple hundred pounds home and Ziploc be like, weighing them here and everything, taking them home and putting them to a big freezer. We have, because the next day, people will start calling, And before, it would be like, oh man, I unloaded yesterday and I sent all these shrimp out there for \$4.50 a pound when I could have made \$5.25, \$5.50, you know, that extra money that because I mean it really really does add up. And he has sold freezers full, the big, big huge freezer's, full, In between trips, you know, or he'll send somebody out to the house and I have to go out there and get them for him or whatever while he's out but they're fresh shrimp, still. I mean, and they sell like that. So that's what I used to do before. I did, you know, when I wasn't doing this, I was out, I would get shrimp off the boat. Not in that car. But my old van I had my kids were little and, I go over to the nursing home when Mama worked and I would have a list of people. They would, there was one woman that worked there, her friend, and she would get a list together. All the people there. What size they wanted have them ready? In five pound bags, they get off of work. They'd already had their checks cashed and they come right to my car. And I was selling 100 200 pounds of shrimp, making, you know, I don't know, at one point, the medium shrimp were \$2.50 a pound and I was selling them for \$4.50. I was making \$200 a box. So if I sold, you know, two boxes, that was my \$400 right there and things were so tough, which I guess is getting personal, but things were so tough back then. But the money that I've made is what bought Christmas. It's what bought the, you know, the kids birthday parties, because my kids did not go without birthday party, you know, they, they didn't go without at all. They never. They never knew because they'll tell me now. We didn't know, it's like that. I'm like, yeah, yeah, we scratched the lottery ticket one time and was able to get gas.

[1:46:00](#)

[phone ringing]

HB: I don't know who that is. I'm not answering. So, so that. But that was back when things were so bad. And you see that people are more than willing to buy.

BP: Right.

HB: They're they're gonna pay the price, you just got to get the product out there for them to do it and You know, like I said, it all boils down to, Having that spot and somebody willing, you know, willing to work it. And I don't think we'd have a problem having people to work it.

LW: Yeah.

HB: No. Yeah.

BP: So so when you think about the future of like you know you said you talked about floodings and everything like that. So if you think about future floodings future hurricanes, storms, stuff like that. Do you think this dock will be okay?

HB: You know, I guess it depends on how it hits because this, you know, This is newer, but out there, the, I mean, that's just tin, you know? I mean, I really feel like we had a bad storm come in that it could, it could tear the outside of the dock up. But that's also just Like a warehouse type thing, I don't know that it would hurt the ice, you know? And the machines themselves are up on top of the ice. So if you wouldn't get water or anything like that in them, Boats. That's my biggest fear is for the boats because most of them do not have insurance.

KM: Okay.

HB: 99% of them don't have insurance.

KM: Is that because they can't get insurance, or they just, it's the price of insurance too high?

HB: Both things. If you have a, the last time that we had insurance, I want to say we got our big boat now in 2007 so it probably was It, was it was too, it was then it was when we got that boat because we had, It had to have, we had a collateral so it was we had to have insurance on it and we paid, I think they wanted a \$14,000 a year, For insurance on the boat. And then it just happened to be that the same year. We paid the boat off that they wouldn't take a wooden hull boat anymore, even though it's fiberglass on the outside, they wouldn't take the wooden hull boat. So if we just drop the insurance on who could afford it, I mean yes. And unless you're a steel Hull boat It is ridiculous. I mean I mean you can't even get it but even this like the steel all the the price is just out of this world. Yeah, you know, but it did. It's a dangerous job too and, you know, boats do sink and we've had two, Sink right down the river. Two of our own sink right down the river. So, you know, I don't know. That's the scariest phone call you'll ever get in your life. I'm telling you. Hey man. Your boat's down the river. It's laid up on the sandbar. Oh my god. It got away from the dock in the middle of the night but they got it up and running it. I mean they but you know they all work together and stuff like that happens. So but that's the biggest I guess, the thing that I see is that, Is that there and that goes back to what they're going to require us to do, you know? Every year and we don't ever do it, but a lot of boats have to take out observers and you're required to take them out. It's not a choice. You have to Provide them with their food and all the whole nine yards. Now, Greg ain't about that. He don't mind somebody coming out, but if he's staying for a week, he's staying for a week, he's not bringing you in and out, you're not wasting fuel like that and you better bring your own food because you know I mean that is some food's expensive enough. He actually told one, That we had a ghost on the boat, he believes that, but anyway, he told him we had a ghost on there and, The guy slept

outside on the deck that night you wouldn't go in the rooms.

KM: That's funny.

HB: Yeah, and we don't. I think that was the last one that actually came on the boat with him. But if you don't take that person they'll charge you like ten thousand dollars-

KM: Really?

HB: And they're yeah yeah.

KM: And they're federal observers?

HB: They are from I guess from NOAA some, some contractors they something that they do that they send out.

LW: Yeah.

HB: And you get that paper and it says you gotta do it, you gotta do it. But then you also have to have that sticker because you got to be approved. They want you to have insurance, because if something happens and this person needs to be, you know? What other job do you have that takes all that? So it's all every bit of that on the boats affects the dock. Every I mean it's all about that little per pound, you know, the packing that we make off of it. So it's yeah. But that's I mean this building itself It could be built back up. It wouldn't be, it wouldn't be a problem. Like I said, ice machines are up there, that's not a problem. We do have fuel tanks out there, but they have a guard on them. I would say it's about that tall or so maybe, maybe not quite but it is a barrier somewhat, if you know, the water comes up. And we've so far we've, we've never had a problem with them so far.

KM: [Knock on wood]

[1:51:22](#)

HB: Yeah, yeah, yeah. So that but but listen, we just went to Fort Myers a couple of months a month or so ago to look at a boat there. And you would not believe they had a hurricane hit over there. And every boat at the dock was pushed up on the land. We walked into this dock and I'm like, man, what's, why is this place? It looks terrible. You know, they clean this up. Well, I didn't realize they had had a hurricane hit. I didn't know that's what that was. They just look like somebody had just trashed the place, like, nobody was there. People got in, you know, whatever. And it was trashed. And, We actually got out and had to walk all these boards to go across. Like, I'm, I'm like, all right, what are we getting into here? You know, we get on the boat and I turn back around. And look at the dock and the whole face of the dock is ripped off. There was no, there was I mean you could see everything and I'm just like, oh crap you couldn't tell that coming in, you know.

KM: Yeah.

HB: But but then the guy was telling us he said, every single boat there, he said they were in the, you know, he said my boat was in a parking lot over there, you know, they had to get cranes to come in and that that scares me because something happens in one of those boats, with it coming up. You know, it just picked him up and threw them.

KM: Some big boats out here, they'll take the whole building down.

HB: Yes, yes, that is and it was, it was bad. I mean, I just and I realized that once I got out there

and kind of looked and he was like he was pointing out places and I just thought we were in a bad area of town or something because it was just trashed

KM: Yeah. Wow.

HB: Like there was a pair of shoes and the there was like a, you know, just a low spot right outside the place and it was all gated off and everything so people couldn't get to it. But there was a, it was like a brand new pair of Crocs or something. I'm like, dang, they had tags on them and stuff. I mean, like, I don't know when this hurricane happened, but nobody gets cleaned up from it. And I was just like, dang, okay, Greg's like, . Oh you like them shoes. I mean, I'm like. No, not me.

KM: Where's the feet that goes with the shoes.

[laughing]

HB: They had tags.

LW: That is crazy.

HB: I mean, I don't know, but that's what it does. Scare me that something because we've been really, really lucky here. As far as like, we're, we're in that curve.

BP: Yeah,

HB: you know, we've got the Barrier Islands out here. It's kind of protecting us, somewhat, and so far, There's something about that little curve. It just kind of, it always goes up. It always goes, you know, above us. I mean, like I said, yeah.

[knocking on wood]

HB: We yeah, yeah.

LW: Thank god for that.

HB: I mean it cuz it scares me to death cuz if something happens like to our boat we're done. I don't, I don't know what we'll do. I mean, I mean he'd retire. Yeah, but still Other people wouldn't have that option and I don't know. It would be bad if we really had one around here like that. Yeah. Buildings can be built by, you know, right?

LW: Yeah, yeah. It's really the boats.

HB: Yeah, I mean, hundreds of thousands of dollars for boats when this building is just nothing. But I mean, you can't even walk out there when it's raining, you get wet, there's all the leaks. I was like, dang man. I was like, what dodging, The stuff coming down inside the dock. Man, I'm gonna stay in my office. Don't get wet. Like man just dried my hair. Washed it. Yeah. So.

LW: Are there any like Investments that you could make into keeping the boat safe? I know that, you know, obviously insurance is not really an option because it's so expensive. Is there any other way that you could protect them if that happened?

HB: I mean a lot of these guys during a hurricane will come and take their boat out into the river and ride it out, that's what they do. They'll put extra ropes, things like that. But as far as if it's if it's one of those it's going to be one of those and there's nothing, you know, Riding it out, you know you might it might help a little you know you might can do a little something out there, turning that Ridge away, whatever it gets the wind or what with the wind or whatever but They go out there and put extra lines on them and usually there's one or two guys that'll stay down here

or they'll take their boat out into the river or something like that but that's there's nothing I mean. It is a gamble, it scares the heck out of me, you know, this time of year starting up, you know.

LW: It's hurricane season.

HB: Yeah, yes, it scares me.

KM: Which It's gonna be very bad.

LW: So far we've heard.

HB: Yeah. Not happy about that at all.

BP: Yeah.

HB: It really does. I wish that was something we could do. But just like farmers, we're not agriculture. So you would think aquaculture, right? I mean because this is right,

BP: That makes sense.

HB: Okay, but it's still the same thing. But yeah,

KM: You are feeding America.

HB: But we, but we are not treated the same at all. And

LW: That's insane.

HB: Yeah. I mean something like that. Yeah, that would make a huge change,. Yeah. I don't know what it would change as far as restrictions and things we have to do here at the dock and stuff. Yeah, I've heard Bryan mention that it was, it would be. It would be a huge, huge change things we'd have to do in certain inspections because you know, here we're just bringing in the shrimp and it's an ice and it stays on ice . The truck comes and gets it, it's gone. It's out of our hands. We don't keep it overnight. We're not processing something that somebody's fixing to eat. You know, we're just take it, we're unloading, that's all we're doing and it's shipping out. So I, I don't know how kind of facility changes they would make it

[1:56:56](#)

KM: Required yeah.

HB: Yeah to do that.

LW: Yeah so I guess that's like would it be better?

HB: Yeah it was kind of weighing the options but there's Aunt Mildred boy, you can get some stories out of her and she's fixing to come straight in this office unless they stop her. That she's yeah. Anyway

KM: Dr. Tookes will stop her.

BP: Yeah. Dr. Tookes out there Like I've heard about you.

HB: I did. I told her. Yeah. That's all that.

[Door Opens]

KM: We're almost done. We're getting there. We were just like two left.

LW: Yes.

HB: You wanna, Here, is there a place for her to sit down out there?

KM: Here I will move. I have to go to the bathroom anyway. Actually, I've been holding it.

HB: Aunt Mildred, I'm gonna put a chair out here for you. We'll be done in just a minute. Aunt Mildred: Oh, okay.

HB: And it's being recorded and all that, so this would be more comfortable for us. So ask her about stories about the dock. Yeah I'm sure she got up here. [Talking out of office]

LW: I'm Sorry. I feel like were taking up all of your time.

BP Yeah.

HB: Yeah. But now, we're, I mean, really? I just hate these. Y'all are missing your lunch.

BP: you're totally fine. It's totally fine. So going back to the yeah, you know. So we talked a little bit about commercial finishing, fishing industry. So do you have any recommendations for the future of it?

HB: If there was I've heard of like, um, We were talking about it out there earlier about these programs where, you know, you're going straight to the consumer, you know, your product's going straight to them, does it have to go through all the middlemen and the processors and all that kind of stuff, but It's it's almost impossible for the fishermen to be out there catching the shrimp and trying to sell their product at the same time. And there's also never a guarantee. You never know what the weather's going to do. You never know. So if There was somehow, you know, where where maybe a group of them got together and there was somebody to sell direct to, you know, and you could always get them if this boat doesn't have that much, should have some, you know, and, and to be able to keep it all up because you can't guarantee anybody anything, right? You know, that's where these big producers come in and how they make their money because they're taking the shrimp from us and they have millions of pounds of shrimp in their freezers. Yeah. So all summer long, They're able to supply any day of the week, any time of the day, and we can't do that. We deal with completely fresh product and other than the freezer boats, but I, I just don't know, I mean, I've heard them talk about stuff like that, but it's, you know, It's a matter of us being able to, I don't know. We, I guess the mind frame is that we just don't have the time to put it together, you know. But something like that or something to be able to sell just just selling direct to the consumer, because we could sell shrimp for seven, eight dollars. A pound all day long,

LW: Right.

HB: Right. And that's right here, that is with shrimp docks all over the place. I mean, we could still sell them for seven to eight dollars.

LW: right?

HB: We get people that stop by here all the time and they're like, oh they're only six dollars and I'm like, dang I should have charged more

LW: right,

HB: you know, I mean, but here we are at \$3.50. So I'm not I'm not trying to be greedy, you know, I just want to give the boat a little extra so Yeah, I don't know, I don't know. I think that something like that would be the only thing for us is just selling direct and cutting out the middleman. And, Just don't know how to do it. All right. I mean, I mean it really is. It's hard, you know, I haven't even been able, I quit selling. like I was telling a minute ago that I used to sell all these shrimp, you know, but then I started having to come down here and who's got time, I can't, I can't sell. I can't sell them from here because that would be, you know, the conflict and it's hard

enough already. Because the rule was for years and years and years. If you want to sell somebody's shrimp, you take it uphill from them, they don't come here. I think I Heard the way she put it was, you don't put a you don't, you don't set up a tool stand in front of the hardware store. Okay, right.

[2:01:27](#)

LW: Makes sense.

HB: Now the last few years or when things really got bad and the prices went down, all these guys are trying to sell as much as they can, you know? And, And I understand that. And so it was kind of like, Okay, this person's 10 boxes of shrimp, you know, it's a thousand pounds. And you want him to load him up in his truck. Take him up the hill. Yeah. Why can't that person? Just come down here. You know, it's their customer and, and so it really, it's worked out that way. There's not a customer that walks in here. That wants to buy shrimp from the dock that, Well, they'll walk up to the guys outside and they'll be like, hey, I want to buy some shrimp. They'll be like You go in the office. People in office, you know, And if it's at the end of the day or whatever, and all the paperwork's done and we're just sitting out there and he's got a cooler with five pounds of shrimp in it extra. That was left over from whatever or somebody didn't pick them up. Somebody comes up, you know, whatever. But In general, we know who our customers are. I know mine and I've only had to get onto one boat for selling to him, here at the dock. I don't care if you sell to him, you sell it. Just you're gonna have to sell to him somewhere else because he is an original. He's been here our customer for years. So I can't, I can't do that. And he was a young guy just started fishing. He didn't know, you know. It only took me three times but the third time, yeah.

LW: He finally got it.

HB: He finally, yeah.

BP: Third Times a Charm.

HB: He was. I was like, you're gonna have to tell him and I and I got on to the man, too. I was like, you can't come and buy from me and then turn around and buy from the fisherman. I don't get you buy from him. I have no problem with that. You just can't do it here,

LW: right?

HB: It's a conflict. So everybody else we know, You know, we all know, I know who's coming up and who they're buying from.

LW: Yeah, exactly.

HB: So and it and those are not last minute sales. Those are people that are coming up because you've already got those orders. Ready, you know that that person's coming in advance. So

LW: yeah. All right, last but not least.

HB: I'm Sorry.

LW: I've been great.

HB: Long winded.

LW: This has been absolutely amazing.

HB: Oh man.



LW: All right. So hypothetically. If I wrote you a check and gave it to you to spend on the dock, what would you spend that money on?

HB: Probably, like I said, the facilities to be able to sell stuff because yeah, I think that It's not. money-wise that would be the thing to do, I mean Not only that but the dock itself. So like you said, if hurricane comes this suckers, it's I mean a bad one is this is not standing so that it's structural structural relief. It needs some, you know, cosmetic help. But that kind of thing would probably wear and not just that equipment because, you know, we have to have a bobcat because that's how we can do the ice. And we have to have a forklift all the time and we really got into buying last year with that, our forklift tore up, couldn't get it fixed and it's taken forever forever forever. Smith and Sons. He said, if you need one, let me know. He went and rented us one.

BP: Wow,

HB: And we had it for Well, over a month and he paid the bill on it. But it was one of those friendship things. He had his ice machine messed up. So he'd been coming to get ice from us for a while. So it was just kind of a it's a-

LW: That Community.

HB: Yeah

LW: That y'all.

HB: It was. You help me. I'm gonna help you back and that's so that's what we've done. But anyway, the point is it put us in such a bind because you can't get out here and pick this stuff up. You know, I mean, like right now, we are literally looking for another one of each machine. So, when I mean, that's something we've got to have

[2:05:17](#)

LW: right?

HB: So that, but that's probably it, it's just the structure of the building. The, the two machines, the, you know, up setting up a place to be able to sell when we have shrimp. Or either being able to freeze some, you know, right to last you a week until the next freshbook. See how you can figure that one out? You just let me know. Get that check, I'll help you.

[laughing]

LW: I'll tell Dr. Tookes to give you a call.

HB: Yeah, yeah. Yeah. We'll use it right.

LW: We've solved it.

HB: We would do it right,

BP: So we asked you a lot of questions.

HB: Oh it's all right.

BP: Is there anything that we asked that we didn't ask you that you wanted to tell us or just let us know or anything like that.

HB: I think every question you asked me, I answer three other questions in that so I am my own stuff.

LW: You did, I loved it!

BP: It was really cool actually.

LW: So I thinking about kind of everything and it was like, I would think of a question I wanted to ask you and then I'd be like, oh, she answered it.

HB: Well that works. No I really don't think so. I mean it's the as far as the dock goes. There's just not, it's really simple. It's real simple work. It's real simple. How it runs and Even as far as down to what does it need help with?

BP: Yeah.

LW: Right

HB: I mean it's all kind of in black and white unless you're Annie.

BP: Well, we wanted to say thank you.

LW: Yes, We appreciate this

BP: This was actually really cool.

HB: Well good, But usually, Greg's the one. That'll talk your head off. I don't, I don't I don't usually

BP: We caught you on a good day.

HB: I guess I just

LW: Look at us. Okay, thank you. Let me. Yeah.

HB: If you want to stop those,

LW: turn all these actually, I don't know if. Do you know what Kristin's stuff to turn it off?

BP: No

LW: Okay, let me grab her. I don't know.

JST: Is Miss Holly still alive?

KM: We're done.

[end of recording]

[2:07:15](#)