And it's February 11, 2025 and you are the wife of...

-I'm the wife of -We'll talk about this in a minute. Please, if you tell me a little more about how you got into fishing. Your family, which I understand is also a family of fishermen, how did you get started and why did you decide to become a fisherwoman?

-I've been fishing practically my whole life, because I'm a fourth-generation fisherman, and that fourth generation is almost reaching its sixth, because even my nephews' children are already fishing. I mean, at least in our family, fishing and the continued tradition of fishing have been encouraged.

What's the attraction of being a fisherman? Everyone in your family seems to have that passion.

-Yes, practically, it's hereditary. My grandmother was the head of a household of 10 children: five girls and five boys. And they all fished. And she was the boss; she would get in her boat with her children, go out, and make the nets. And she encouraged all her children in this way, and practically all of them have made a living from fishing.

-And your family in the past, since your grandmother, did they have a good life, a comfortable life?

-I would say that there are a lot of people who say: Ah, fishing is over, no, what happens is that fishing is evolving. So the fact that fishing is evolving is that in my grandmother's time, what they fished was sea turtles, hawksbills, they fished, and Jesús himself told me stories about catching giant, titan groupers (Sea basses, Serranidae), they caught them practically in the bays, which you don't see very often these days, but it's the fact that fishing is evolving. Here I would say they waited too late to ban certain kinds of fish. Not too late because they're gone, too late because the development of fishing changed. Here, parrotfish were banned, parrotfish were banned, and a bunch of fish species were banned. Back in the 90s, 90-something years, from my own experience, my dad owned a fish market, and practically all the fishermen in the area sold to my dad commercially for a lot, all the kinds of fish they caught. That fish was sold in Puerto Rico and imported. Two or three groups would come to my house every week to get 20 quintals of fish a day, which they would put in containers with ice and take away.

[00:04:02]

What time was that, what year?

-That was in 90, I'd say until 95. From 95, practically until now, there was the boom of the spiny lobster (Panulirus argus\*) and the queen conch (Strombus gigas\*) (queen conch), so here all the fishermen fished with trammel nets, but for fish. And maybe, I don't know if it was that they didn't know, or maybe they didn't have the same visions, or maybe they followed the custom of their parents, because I said that for me, from my experience, I say that they killed themselves fishing. There are many people who still exist, who are fishermen of yesteryear, as we say, and they killed themselves fishing. Because they had them, sometimes they would leave at 4 in the afternoon and come back at 7 at night. If they went at night, they would come at dawn. And maybe they didn't have those visions, but later on, when we were fishing, when we were fishing for spiny lobster (Panulirus argus), and for a while, people were telling us to go fishing, and we went fishing for fish nets. And I said to Jesus, "Why do they go and get up so early and kill themselves trying to catch the little fish they catch, and they're not that prepared?" I said to Jesus, "You and I are going to go fishing for fish," and I said to him, "We're not going to stay up all night or stay out there all night." I said, "What's the point, if you throw out a fish net and in an hour and a half you already have the fish in the net? What's the point of you leaving the fish there, for the fish to die or for the dolphin to eat it?" We would sometimes go. I would tell Jesús, "Let's go at 4." We would go at 4, cast the nets, and by 5:30 we'd retrieve the nets, prepare the fish with ice, and I would tell Jesús, "Let's go and cast the nets again." The catch was so good that the one who bought fish from us stopped buying from us because she said we couldn't keep up, fishing for the few employees she had to process the fish. I would say, "Maybe the fishermen had that vision back then." Or maybe the vision also helped the wildlife, because, perhaps, if they had fished them like I say, they would have finished more fish. But, practically, I say it's not that the fish have run out, there are more fish. The fact that the lobster boom, (Spiny lobster, \*Panulirus argus\*) here all the fishermen who fished with fish nets, none catch fish now, they all fish with lobster nets, (Spiny lobster, \*Panulirus argus\*) if they do not have lobster pots (Spiny lobster, \*Panulirus argus\*) and the others are divers.

-Well, I want to understand a little more, because I don't think I understood very well. That's why I'm going to ask you, and excuse me if I ask you again. What I heard you tell me, well, you told me many things, but one is that when your family fished, they caught a type of fish (Blue Marlin, \*Makaira nigricans XLII\*) and a lot of that type of fish (Blue Marlin, \*Makaira nigricans XLII\*) were close to the shore, closer to the shore, they didn't go deep, and there were all kinds of fish (Blue Marlin, \*Makaira nigricans XLII\*) that they caught. Over time, that fish (Blue Marlin, \*Makaira nigricans XLII\*) is still there, it's just that people want lobster (Spiny lobster, \*Panulirus argus\*) more or another type of fish (Blue Marlin, \*Makaira nigricans XLII\*) and they go for that more than anything. That's one of the things I understood you told me. And the other thing you told me is that fishermen before and until when you started, but until when your mother was fishing, grandmother or mother?

-My grandmother.

-Grandma. I wasn't very efficient, something like that.

[00:08:26]

-I would say that if, perhaps, they had used the tactics I used, then perhaps they would have exterminated the fish, as they say, perhaps they would have overfished them. Perhaps that's why they used those methods to avoid overfishing the fish.

-You think it was a mentality of yours…

-Maybe. And as a businessman, you see the mentality of going and grabbing it quickly and bringing it in.

-But what technique did they use that you don't? You use what, the net?

-Yes, we used the same nets. It depends on the type of fishing.

"But they were working longer hours, that's what you told me, in the early morning or at night, and they didn't get as much as you got in an hour. And why the difference? I don't understand."

-Well, I don't know, I think they spent many hours fishing.

-And they had less time than you did in an hour. So, what did your family teach you, then? What did you learn from your family?

"From my family, I only learned how to clean fish. That man over there, Jesús Ramírez, is the one who taught me how to fish. They never even taught me how to throw a line."

-Because?

"I saw it in practically my entire family, but they didn't teach me how to fish, not even with a line. It was Jesus who taught me how to fish."

-And why do you think they didn't teach you?

-Maybe because they found fishing to be very demanding and didn't want their children to be fishermen.

-And what did you think when you started fishing?

-They were happy because they quickly said: Ah, that's in the family.

-So, they changed their minds.

-Of course.

-He was never taught anything, but he grew up watching it anyway.

-And I always encouraged it, and even now I'm proud that my nephews fish. I have a nephew who practically goes fishing now. He's 29 years old, and I used to take him fishing with Jesús when he was 4. And now he goes out alone, takes his proel, fishes for snapper, dives, nets, and survives off fishing. He's a commercial fisherman as such.

-Tell me again what kind of fish you catch now?

-I basically scream, but now Jesús is more dedicated to screaming. Because he's getting older and his hearing is also bothering him when diving, because Jesús dives, but he dives with his lungs. Jesús would dive up to 60 feet with his lungs.

-Do you dive sometimes?

-No. I've always captained the boat, keeping an eye on him.

[00:11:37]

Tell me a little about what you need to know to captain the boat when you dive, what's important?

-In our case, Jesús, I'd say it was about 30 years ago. Jesús had an accident. He was diving in the El Combate area, on the shore, for fun. He wasn't fishing, just for fun, looking for things to find on the bottom. A boat entered the bay and something ran over Jesús and cut him off here. Practically as soon as he felt the boat, he got out and the boat was already coming right at him. Jesús pushed off from the same boat and just cut him off here. That's why Jesús panicked a little, and I always... When I started fishing, I would get seasick and all that, but I quickly got the hang of it and didn't get seasick, and Jesús's safety has always come first. If Jesus is in the bay and a jet ski or a boat comes to approach him because Jesus always jumps in and I have a flag on the boat notifying that Jesus is fishing in the area and anyway they don't respect the flag and they approach where Jesus is. Then I have to be looking to square the boat. That is, before they get to where Jesus is the boat is facing in front of them so they can't get close to Jesus because they don't respect him.

-Why do you think they don't respect the rules, don't know or...?

-They're playing dumb, because it's been known for years that if there's a buoy with a flag, it means a diver is in the area; if there's a boat with a flag, it means there's a diver in the area. They're supposed to be practically 500 feet away. Now, if it's an emergency, they might be closer, or they might be able to go through with their proper security, so they don't have to throw the boat at them.

-Who is passing by and not respecting the rule? Are they tourists?

-They're practically tourists, because no fisherman bothers with that, since they already know and are always protecting.

[00:14:20]

-Well, tell me a little about Maria and Fiona. What happened during that time?

-For María, we didn't stay here; we stayed on the plots of land, at my parents' house, and the boat moved over there. For María, the biggest impact here was the power outage, which was the most significant because we were without power until after Christmas. And the fact that even when the sea was good, we couldn't go fishing because we didn't have anyone to buy our fish, because they had nowhere to store them, because there was no power. And until that was regulated, at least the merchants were able to have full power. So up until that point, we were stuck with the fishing. We had a tough time on that front. But in terms of being affected by the swells, the swells practically didn't affect us during Maria, but then, I'd say for three weeks after, swells came that brought mud and algae from the outside, and they completely flooded us. We were practically stuck, I think for more than a month. And what we did was, we'd put the bus like this with the cart behind it, and we'd put panels on the cart. And, look, that's mud over there. That mud was from last time, but when we got back, it filled up completely because we had to take it out, and it practically solidified so much that they would climb up on panels like that, practically halfway up the dock, and they'd take it out with a shovel and throw it onto the cart, and then they'd come and take it out.

-Who helped you do that?

They were practically friends of ours, one or two fishermen, because practically, as they say, when someone is affected, they look for a way to go elsewhere. But when it affects us—we live here and it affects us—well, we're forced to do something to fix it. But many of the fishermen who fish here don't live here; they live on the plots. So if they couldn't fish here and there, it was a little more effective for them to fish the other way, so they would fish the other way. If they could get out and launch the boat through Combate, they would go and launch through Combate and so on. But it took us almost a month to get all that snail and seaweed out.

[00:17:13]

-And then Covid came, how did it affect you?

-Oh, COVID. It really affected us quite a bit, because we were still feeling the impact of the tremors here when COVID started.

-Tell me a little about that?

-The impact of the tremors, because practically January was the peak here, and we've never been hit like this by tremors. But here, you feel a 5-point earthquake, you feel a 6-point earthquake, and they're quite strong here. Yes, it feels like a tremor.

-And what happened, how about right away when you felt it?

-Yes, it feels fast here. The thing is, since the water is just a few feet down here, practically 3 feet down here, you shovel it and the water comes out.

-Due to the earthquake, is water coming in?

-No, the water is always down here, fast, the water levels, the water table is quite high.

–And with the earthquake, do they come out on top?

-No, they don't come out, but you can feel them, they shake a lot.

-That's why it's more unstable, that's why...

-It's more unstable.

-And what's the connection between tremors and COVID? Because he told me it was happening at the same time.

-Well, we were basically there for a month, and for almost that month, a friend of ours, who always stays with us, traveled and stayed in the first building. And since she was coming alone, she wanted us to stay overnight with her, there in the apartment. Well, we were staying here, she would go fishing with us. We would stay here and go there. Well, basically, on the 6th… the strongest ones waited for the 6th, because it was already 5. something, but on the 6th, already on Three Kings' Day, we were on a sofa bed and it almost knocked us to the floor. The earthquake on the first floor above that building, well, we were unstable. We didn't have the camper, we were in the little house, so everyone said, 'If there's a strong earthquake, there could be a tsunami.' So, we were pretty panicked on that side. On Three Kings' Day, we took Anita to Aguadilla because she was traveling. So Anita didn't want us to come here at dawn, so Anita paid for our stay at the Marriott in Aguadilla. We stayed there. And that's where we passed the fort.

[00:20:25]

-In Aguadilla?

-Yes, remember that the big earthquake happened in the early hours of the 7th, at 4 in the morning.

-I mean, I was more scared of the earthquake than of Covid.

We felt more insecure. So, from January 6th until a week before COVID hit, we were basically here, staying at a friend's house in town, quite far away... And every time we tried to come and stay, sometimes we came in the afternoon and another earthquake would strike at 5 p.m., and we'd leave. And practically a week before COVID hit, we moved, staying here full-time. So it hit us twice because our bus broke down, we were stuck here, we couldn't go anywhere, everything was closed because of COVID, you couldn't go out to buy anything. We were stuck here for three weeks, practically three weeks, which affected us, because I always say that a little angel appears, someone always appears to help you. Because, practically, we couldn't go out to buy groceries and we ran out of groceries and one morning, I think it was a Saturday, I said to Jesús: 'The groceries lasted until today, just for breakfast.' I said to him: 'Well, God provides, something will appear,' and one of the fishermen, who even surprised us, who is a relative of mine, arrived around 10 in the morning and brought us groceries. We were shocked because we hadn't told anyone that we had run out of groceries, because I say that's part of being a fisherman or part of one's pride, that one can be in bad shape and not say that one is in bad shape, but, thank God, after that, well...

But then we had COVID. We didn't get COVID at that time, we practically got COVID about two years ago. And last summer we got it again, but it wasn't because of this, but Jesús is a real maniac, and Jesús is a hypochondriac. If you talk to Jesús about illnesses, Jesús thinks he's going to get that illness, and he's a real maniac. So we always stayed with Jesús. Well, his hands were peeling from pouring alcohol and protecting himself, and that's practically why we didn't get COVID. But I got sick, and we had to go to the emergency room. In the emergency room, Jesús was nervous, he touched the computer where he had to enter my data and it seems he forgot and he rubbed his hands on his face and Jesús came down with covid, and since we had already moved to the camper, well, the two of us were living inside the camper, well, I got covid quickly, but Jesús got it quite hard, so he practically couldn't even swallow for 4 days, but we got through it.

[00:24:22]

Let's think a little more about your days at the beginning of COVID and the tremors. You spent weeks unable to fish because of the tremors. You had to leave, you were afraid of the tsunami, and you couldn't fish for three weeks or more. Then, in the end, you decided to come back here and start fishing, but COVID...

-And also stuck, because we couldn't go out fishing, we couldn't sell.

-Because there were no people to sell it… I could go out fishing, but there was no one…no one bought it

-Yes, the sea was good, there was good fishing weather, but no one bought it because they were quarantined, so they couldn't sell it.

-How long did it last, not being able to go fishing, not being able to sell?

-I think the first one was, I think we were there for about two months, during the first wave of COVID. After things became more regulated, and they had more of this, there was free will, you could come and go, and I think it was only practically the weekends that made it harder for us, but on regular days, yes.

-You told me you're the president of a Fishermen's Association of 12 fishermen. How long have you been president?

-I would say since 2000.

-And how did you become president?

"Well, the group of fishermen has always been there, practically. There was a cousin who was the president. Afterwards, they practically didn't leave here, they didn't travel, they didn't have meetings with other fishermen and things, and we sort of moved around more. Before, sometimes, Jannette herself or someone would tell us: there's a fishermen's meeting, because of the regulations, or this or something, and if we had the vehicle, we'd get going quickly and go. And I remember there was a meeting in El Maní, in Mayagüez. We went there, and I think it was regarding the fishing regulations, but since I'm so well-presented, I started asking the president of the association who was there at the time about the association and how it was run. I started talking, and then he told me: 'You have to have your reports up to date,' 'You have to have this up to date,' and I said: 'I don't think they have any of that up to date.'" So the next day, I met with my cousin. I told him: look, you have this and you have that. He said: no. So the group of fishermen there was very contentious, so everyone wanted to be president, but no one knew the responsibility of being president. When I told my cousin about the responsibility, I'd say a month passed, and my cousin resigned from the presidency. So, since they had such a huge amount of power, the vice president quickly wanted to be president. But back then, it was more the position of president, so they felt like they were presidents with responsibility, because they didn't know. So, practically the only positions there were were president and me, who was secretary, and they'd pick me here and pick me there.

[00:28:20]

Well, then, the other fishermen wanted me to be president, but since the other one was the one who would succeed the president, he said it had to be him, but then conflicts arose, because I had to do the president's job and I had to do the secretary's job. So there were times when the president had meetings with the mayor and called me: "Interviewee, there's a meeting at city hall at such and such a time." There's a meeting, but what's the meeting for? He didn't tell me why it was. He would arrive at city hall and leave, leaving me alone with the mayor. So the only thing I could do was present the problems the fishermen were having, what I knew there were, because I didn't know the reason why he was holding the meeting. And the fishermen began to realize this, and I saw that one day they held a meeting and said they didn't want him, that they wanted me, so they elected me. Then they did, they looked for ways to resolve conflicts when they saw that I... That booth was full, it was two houses and it was abandoned, and practically, the authorities had already told me if we could use it for meetings. Well, I moved, I moved to Agriculture, in Agriculture they gave me donations from the Courts, they donated chairs, they donated files. And I had already built an office, practically. I don't know if it was because of that or if I had some conflict with the fishermen, I think about a year and a half passed, and in the early morning my mom called me, we had the boat there, on that same dock, the one that was here, which is now completely closed off, due to mud, there was also a small hole where another fisherman used to stand and there were two large boats, he says they were next to there and another boat that belonged to his nephew, which is a boat that is here, previously, he had the boat here. And they called me in the early morning. My mom said, 'Your dad and your brother went out fishing early in the morning, and they found a fire on the dock. There was a bucket on your boat. They took it and poured water on it, put out the fire, and went fishing, but they didn't say anything.' When they were throwing their nets out to sea, they saw the fire again. So, they called to tell my mom. My mom told me the fire was in the shed, right next to where your cousin was. I said, 'My cousin, the boat in the shed is our boat,' and the other two big boats. On the other side, there's another boat tied up. When Jesús heard the phone, Jesús was in the bathroom. I wanted to knock down the bathroom door. I said, 'Jesus! They're burning, and that's where our boat is.' So, we set off, and I said, 'It's just that sometimes people don't value or give importance to the things they miss from other people.' There was a pump truck here, a water truck, an emergency management truck. They have a pump truck, which is like a drinking water truck, with its hose and everything, that can put out a fire. When we arrived, that truck was there, and what it was doing was watching the fire.

[00:32:29]

-I mean…

-Without doing anything.

-Without doing anything.

-I was looking at the fire and there was water here. My husband had some of this here. My husband brought a hose, put it in, and went over there and put out the fire.

-But who set it on fire, where did the fire come from?

-We have always thought that the man who was president ordered someone to burn.

-Like a…

-Like a grudge because he had been removed from the management of the corporation.

-And did you have files or things there that you started to spill?

-No, luckily not. There were the files, the chairs, and the desks in the area, but luckily there were no documents in the area. But there was even a net, ours from a fishing net. There were batteries from the boat, and everything was lost. The cabin was practically lost, his nephew's boat was lost; a complete loss. The whole boat burned down, complete with its two engines. They took that from there to the dump, practically, and there wouldn't have been chaos if Jesús hadn't moved in time, because after Jesús put out the fire, he said, "Oh, but I have the water there." So he went to put out the fire. That's how they put out the fire. If our boat had caught fire, all that would have been chaos, because we had a 50-gallon gas tank, full, and it was L-shaped, and these were the cushions, so they were here and they were already completely melted. It would have been complete chaos if that 50-gallon gas tank had exploded there.

-What happened to the gentleman after that? Do you know anything about him? Is he part of the association?

He quit. He quit being a fisherman, because at that time there was still no documentation for the lot, for the land. So they started to make a dispute, and practically when they started to make a dispute, he went directly to the man who was going to donate the land, to make a dispute with the man. And the man already knew I was the president and that Jesús was working with me, so he called us directly, told us: "I don't want any more problems in the area, for the fishermen. I recognize you as president," and we had already moved, we had all the documentation. Because past presidents didn't have anything, we moved through the State Department to incorporate the non-profit corporation and we moved everything. Then he told us, we didn't have transportation, the man paid for transportation, because the man was a senator, he had already retired as a senator and was a lawyer and had his offices in San Juan. And the man paid for our transportation, they came and picked us up, took us there, and he said: "I don't want any more problems." He told us: 'Get legal ownership.' He told me: 'The first thing I'm going to ask is that those people not be allowed in the corporation.' And about a week later, they held a meeting, and he said: 'I'm going to make sure they stop having conflicts.' So he sent a lawyer who prepared the documentation for us, and the lawyer, when the hotels were still operating, met with the fishermen at the hotel. And then the fishermen told her they wanted this, they wanted that. So she told them: 'Okay, you want this, you want that,' she told them: 'You can do it wherever you want, but there on that lot, you can't do it anymore. There's a corporation there, the corporation is in Interviewee's name. There's the fishing group, which is Interviewee's corporation; they're the only ones who have the right to the facilities.'

[00:37:10]

-I want to understand, because I don't quite understand, this land here belonged to a natural person who...

–He gave it to him.

-OK. Was it practically private before?

-No, it was always used by fishermen, but it had never been legally owned.

And what role did that lawyer play? Why was that lawyer able to force him to give up his seat? Was he merely acting as a lawyer, or did he have the rights of a landlord?

-Yes, he had rights. The person who donated was a legislator. He had retired as a legislator, and he had legal ownership of everything, this one, that one, even the ones who built the buildings.

-What did they do it for? Why were there buildings?

-Those buildings were built as condominiums.

-It was private property…

-Yes, but they always allowed access to the fishermen.

-And when he handed over access to you as president, you wanted to implement that from now on it would continue to be access…

-Yes, but only to those who were incorporated.

-Those 12 fishermen.

-Exact.

-And what problem was there before? Because he told me that the legislator who helped him keep this place, at one point said: 'I don't want any more problems.'

-Yes, but that's just a conflict because the man went and messed around and spoke badly to her there, trying to expedite the paperwork.

-What interest did that gentleman have?

-I really don't know. At first, I thought it was because he wanted to be president, but he didn't want to do his job. If he was going to be president of the fishermen, he had to do his job.

-And during that time he also told me that he spoke and went to meetings with the mayor, about what?

-The mayor of Cabo Rojo here.

-From Cabo Rojo and what did you tell him about the problems of the fishermen, give me an example or two, what problems there were at that time?

-Well, at that time we were having problems: the dock wasn't in good condition, the SEP was practically gone, there was no tar, there wasn't any tar on the road here yet, there was no security because there was practically no electricity here; the only light source that was almost always there was there, and the area was very dark.

[00:40:08]

-Access problems mostly.

-Yeah.

-And is the pier now maintained by you or by the mayor?

-For us.

-For you.

-Before Maria, it was practically that we met with the mayor, who at that time was Roberto Ramírez, ‘Bobby’, at that time, and at least at that time the lumber was quite cheap and I think it was 400 something, something like that, the cost of the materials. And we asked the municipality for a donation and the municipality gave it to us, and the materials were purchased and the pier was repaired and thanks to that, when Maria, it didn’t affect us on the pier, but then for Fiona it affected us, Fiona tore the [unintelligible] off the pier.

-And you had to clean it?

-It had to be cleaned, but it had to be repaired. Jesus made the repairs with his son, the youngest.

-And do the other fishermen contribute with work…?

-That's the point, almost no fisherman, even though he knows and enjoys the area, doesn't want to help us.

-And how does the president of the association do it? That's different from a Fishing Village, right?

-It's the same.

-It's the same. The thing is, we haven't had the ability to build a structure as such yet.

-In a Fishing Village, from what I understand, the fishermen bring in the fish and the Fishing Village sells it.

-Yes, but since we don't have the facilities yet, then we sell them independently. The fishermen are selling their catch independently, but they all arrive here and leave from here.

-You're leaving here. But your role, from what I understand, is to maintain that relationship with the mayor, to keep records.

-Yes, for the corporation as such.

-How do you feel this place is safe for the future for the fishermen here?

"At least as long as I'm here and there's someone who keeps it legal, who maintains the area, who is kind to nature. Because there are people who don't have that vision; there are people who, because they see mangroves there, think they're a nuisance. We're fishermen; we're not bothered by mangroves."

-What is the role of the mangrove?

-The mangrove is our nursery. Everything grows in the mangrove. Spiny lobsters (Panulirus argus) grow in the mangrove, snappers (Lutjanidae) grow in the mangrove. Everything grows in the mangrove. If there isn't a healthy mangrove, there's no life in the mangrove. We won't have any life out there.

-Who do you think is threatening the mangrove's belonging here?

-Sometimes people come here, hoteliers and all that, who think the mangroves bother them because they want a better view. We don't, on the other hand. As long as we can protect the mangroves, the mangroves are what will protect us.

-What do you do to protect the mangroves?

-At least here they prune, they don't cut the mangrove as such, here they prune the mangrove for right now the dock area, and that.

[00:44:04]

-When that person who signed the right to access the sea to you, can you also protect the mangroves, do you legally have…?

-Legally, it's not ours, because it's a maritime-terrestrial zone. But the fact that we live off the mangroves, it's our right and our duty to protect them, because that's where we live.

-So if there's a hotelier who wants to come and build here, you can say no.

-No.

-Can you sell this place, could you sell it?

-No, although it could be sold legally, yes, but no, no.

-If I wanted to sell it, would I have to get permission from the other 12 fishermen for that, or how does it work?

-Yes, I would say so.

-Tell me a little about the fishermen in your network, in your association. What kind of fishing do they do? Where do they live?

-They practically live here, in the same community.

-About?

-Yes, they live nearby, practically. I'd say there are four who come from here, who fish, and the rest are divers.

-4 nets and 7 or 8 divers.

-And we fish with nets, diving and snapper, all three.

-The divers stay close to the sea, right?

-They go outside a lot too.

-Quite far?

-Yeah.

-They take the whole platform, the diver takes the whole platform while he can.

-What do they take?

-They catch good fish.

-(Jesus) They catch quite a lot.

-How many pounds of fish, approximately, do you carry in a day?

-No fish, lobster, (Spiny lobster, \*Panulirus argus\*) but they catch good fish, they can catch 50 pounds of lobster. (Spiny lobster, \*Panulirus argus\*)

-In one day?

-In one day, a single fisherman.

-And do they go alone or do they have a guide?

-Yes, practically the only one who is going out alone now is Jesús, because I haven't been out with him for a while, because my discs are damaged.

-Yes, he told me.

-Practically everyone. He goes out with the one from here, from this baby. They're father and son. The kid was a diver, but he had a bubble. And he practically ended up with leg problems.

-Do people who go diving take certifications or training?

-Yes, but what happens is that sometimes, maybe the excitement of finding a good catch, and sometimes they need money. In the boy's case, he had his pensions and got too excited about fishing and didn't make the cut. He had to take a break every so often, to rest after each catch, and he wasn't doing it.

-How are your pensions?

-Yes, because he had alimony debts.

[00:48:04]

-I mean…

-He was a boy when it hit him, he was 33 years old.

-You told me that as a family you make a good living fishing together, but is it the same with the other fishermen here?

-Yeah.

-Anyway, that boy had a few more problems.

-Yes, because he was young and already had two children—he has two children—and he's still fishing. He doesn't dive, but he takes risks every day because his legs aren't as good.

-What's wrong with your legs?

-He has to use the walker.

-He walks with the walker and gets on the boat and is still fishing alone?

"No, he fishes with his dad. Always. But now what he does is his dad throws out the nets and he guides the boat, but it's a complete risk, because if the net gets tangled up in his, he falls into the boat's motor, the boat sinks. It already happened to his brother, he fishes alone, the older brother fishes alone and it already happened to him, outside of Mayagüez; while fishing with the nets, a net got tangled in the motor's propeller and his boat sank. He was lucky there was someone in a boat outside. It seems he spotted him and thought it was a kayak or something, and he approached. If he hadn't approached, a disaster would have happened, because there are strong currents there, near Mayagüez there are strong currents, yes, a lot of sharks. And he was lucky that they spotted him and from there they went and pulled the boat out."

-Tell me a little about the sargassum bloom, if it's a problem you're encountering here.

-For us, personally, we've been here since at least July. The winds have saved us, and the currents have been on our side. The fact is that no matter how much the wind is from the east or the wind from the south, at some point during the day the wind shifts to the north, and I imagine the currents have also shifted at some point, because it hasn't allowed the sargassum to get into Bahía Sucia. Because Bahía Sucia is a funnel, that's why it's called Bahía Sucia, because the garbage even reaches from Venezuela, there. So we were there from…

[00:51:02]

-Where is it? Can you show me where it is on the map?

-Yeah.

-The recorder fell. And it turned off.

-And it turned off, at least this one is working.

(...)

-And what's happening, were the currents in your favor?

-The sargassum accumulated about two years before Maria. That mangrove forest that's dead there was completely lost; it was the sargassum, that wasn't Maria.

-Did he die from sargassum?

-It was because of the sargassum.

-And when was that?

-It was here practically before Maria, and we were already mentioning to the biologists that the sargassum was affecting us quite a bit. Maybe they didn't think it would have that impact.

-How long did the sargassum stay there?

-I would say it was for many years.

-Many years?!

-Yes, because we weren't used to sargassum being there for so long. Sargassum could last practically two years. It got caught in the current, it came in, and the north winds came in, and they came out and went, but they didn't stay there stagnant. And it was practically two years before Maria that they arrived frequently, every month they came in, and what they did was practically fill the entire bay.

-The whole bay, that is, around the…

-The whole bay, the whole Dirty Bay, it filled it completely. Then it started to decompose. And that's what...

-And how did it affect the fish? Did it affect them in any way? I mean, you don't go there to fish, but did it affect the fish in any other way during that time?

-Yes, because that cuts off oxygen below and oxygen above. If there were spiny lobsters (Panulirus argus) and West Indian top shells (Cittarium pica), all of that must have affected it.

-But he was still able to fish, but around that…

-We didn't catch fish, we couldn't.

-Nothing?

-Not in that area.

-But around that area he was able to fish.

-The outside, yes.

-They didn't stop fishing during that time, but they couldn't...

-Not in that area.

[00:54:05]

-(Jesus) However, the sargassum comes to the shore and kills everything there, but when the spots are out, what it brings is fish, because that brings shrimp, (Shrimps, \*Crustaceans spp.\*) the cocolía (Crab marine, \*Callinectes spp.\*) (crab marine), many little things and the fish eat that and that is when it catches the mahi-mahi, the dorados, (Dolphins, \*Coryphaenidae\*) around those spots.

-Yes, as long as he's around, it's life, as they say.

-I mean, it's only bad when it sticks to the shore and stays there.

-How it gets stuck.

-And did you return from Maria?

-It was practically… the mangrove disappeared in 5 years.

-And the sargassum came back later?

-The sargassum came and was practically affecting us until last year, quite frequently, it came and went, it came and went, but it was quite frequent.

-(Jesus) We were intoxicated by that.

-Yes, we got intoxicated.

-To you?

-Yes, that's why we have the camper.

-How does it affect you? What are your symptoms?

-(Jesus) As it decomposes it releases methane gas, and methane gas…

- Intoxicate.

-Does it smell really bad too?

-We sometimes had to leave at 1 in the morning.

-(Jesus) Your eyes start to burn, you get a headache…

-Nausea, dizziness.

-Are you going to the hospital or where are you going?

-No, we weren't going to the hospital, we were leaving the area.

-For how long?

-We would basically leave during the night, in the early morning, and return during the day.

-Was it better during the day or why? Or just to sleep better?

-Yeah, just to sleep better we left the area.

-And if they go fishing, it won't smell so bad?

-Not outside.

-(Jesus) It depends on where the wind is, because if the sargassum is there and the wind is from there, then it carries the plague there, because the plague [unintelligible] when it is from the south.

-Yes, the plague also affected the community.

-How does it affect it? And what fish does it affect?

-Yes, because practically every time the south winds blew, the bad smell reached the community, but since we're the only ones here all the time, we're the ones most affected.

-When you say fishing community, is it a little higher up or are you referring to the fish?

-No, no, to the community as such, to the people who live here, on the plots as such.

"I understand. There are people who fish, but there are also people who just live here. And what do they do, you know, do they leave?"

-They don't come out.

-(Jesus) In the salt mines, they have a gate on the other side, through which water enters, and they cover it up to make salt. Now you go there and what you see is like a beach. And sargassum and sand.

-Is he still there?

-(Jesus) There still has to be sargassum.

-Yes, in the area over there, yes, because he stayed there the whole time.

-(Jesus) So, you can't have any garment that isn't gold, because it makes it black.

[00:57:35]

-Yes, it is highly corrosive, it affected us in our vehicles.

-(Jesus) He damaged all the feather keys. (Porgies, \*Sparidae\*)

-The previous car we had was a Toyota Echo and it turned the lights on by itself, it turned them off by itself, the wipers turned on and off by themselves.

-(Jesus) He was courting.

-Those little cymbals are made of bronze, and the fact that it's so corrosive blocked them, because they turned black and shorted out, it seems, and they worked on their own. The same thing happened to us with the Montero.

-(Jesus) The Montero still has a cut, which sometimes works alone and it is the sargassum.

-Why do you think this happens with sargassum? Because it's a fairly new phenomenon, right, only a few years old...

-Yes, at least so so much of that, I would say, according to, global warming, because that didn't come so much here.

-Do you think it's because of global warming?

-Yes, I imagine so, because it didn't come that often. And it's been coming pretty frequently since practically before Maria.

How would you describe global warming, in your opinion, based on your experience? What is it?

-Well, at least it's affected us here because sea levels have risen. As I said, the sargassum that practically ruined the mangroves there, killed the entire mangrove. And we were practically affected by the fact that we were poisoned, the fact that an industry that's been around for more than 500 years, the salt mines, was shut down.

-Because?

-The salt mines were supposedly closed because the water level rose, the sargassum was in the bay, and when the water level rose, it broke the crystallizers, invaded the crystallizers, and filled with sargassum.

-Is the salt mine an industrial salt mine?

-Yes, it was an industrial salt mine.

-They closed it and now it's empty.

-Yes, they're not going to generate any more salt there. I don't know if in the future, because now they've handed it over to the Wildlife Refuge, I don't know if in the future Wildlife will return and work them, I don't know, but that was an industry that went back more than 500 years; salt was extracted here since the Tainos.

[01:00:10]

-This is Taino land, here. Are there things that remind you of that? Are there archaeological sites here?

-Yes, practically all of this here, Sierra Bermeja, there are indigenous sites, even in Ostiones, in all of that, you see.

-Are there people who can say they have Taíno blood here?

-Yes, yes.

-There are people around here who can say that... I wanted to know, well, you told me about global warming, about the water level rising higher, the sargassum. Are there things happening in the water? What can you say? Is the water warmer or colder, or didn't you notice anything?

-Well, I'd say temperatures have risen a lot.

-When do you think they started to rise more or less?

-I would say practically for the last 3 years.

-And you feel that the temperature…

-Yes, the temperature feels higher.

-How much, 1 degree, 2 degrees? What do you think?

-No, it went up quite a bit.

-More than one degree?

-Yes, here we practically, I would say that you can feel it up to 109.

-Well, the air temperature or the sea temperature?

-Yes, the temperature outside.

-Ah, I ask about the sea.

-No, we haven't measured the temperature of the sea as such, but it has also risen quite a bit.

-Has it gone up?

-Yeah.

-And do you think the fish have changed in some way because of the sea temperature?

-Well, look, I don't know. I'd say the only change we saw was during Maria. We did notice it during Maria, but it was in the mangroves. When Maria hit, I don't know if they always do it. When bad weather hits, the fish go out to seek safety because all the fish in the mangroves left. I'd say they practically returned a week after Maria.

-But was it just a temporary change?

-Yes, but the boom continued as always. At least here we've always had good fishing. The mangroves have always been quite healthy, even this entire mangrove has been practically completely restored.

-After Mary it was restored.

-Yes, there's been tremendous restoration, practically because the wind blew from the west here, so since it's salt water that's hitting, it burns everything. And practically everything was renovated.

[01:03:08]

What do you think the future holds for fishing in your community, your association, or fishing in general here? Do you think it's sustainable, that it has a future?

-Yes, I think so. And at least I know there will still be fish in the area.

-Despite global warming?

-Maybe it will change, because maybe the water levels will rise more, but I think fishing is sustainable, because even after the hurricanes, if there were no fishing, if fishing were declining due to global warming or earthquakes or other things that were affecting the area, maybe there wouldn't be fishing on the shore. Because, maybe, the queen conch (Strombus gigas) because it's caught a lot (queen conch), you have to go look for it at greater depths, but the queen conch (Strombus gigas) after a closed season, you go to the beach and with water up to your ankles you can find conch. (Queen conch, Strombus gigas) For that matter, I have always favored closed seasons, as long as they are carried out as they should be, that they are for the time that they should be protected. Because it encourages, you see the change, you see the change that, when fishing opens, there are a lot of fish, there are a lot of fish, after the closed seasons.

What if global warming causes sea levels to rise significantly and perhaps costs you money for the dock here? What would you do if that happens?

"We'd have to remodel or look for options, because it's part of their nature; nature will reclaim what's theirs, as they say. We're practically invaders. We're the invaders in this case, so we'd have to...

What is your vision for the fishermen's association?

-Well, I hope that in the future we can have, at least here, some facilities.

-How do you think you can achieve this?

-Well, if only government agencies would help us, but here's the sad thing: government agencies don't want to cooperate.

-Why do you think they don't want to?

[01:05:55]

-It's not that I think, it's that I know it's not. We've practically had two four-year terms, this one that started and the last one; we haven't seen the mayor's face in this area. So, if the mayor, who is supposed to help us, isn't seen in the area, we have no help.

-Okay, well, that's a lot of information. Thank you very much. Is there anything else you'd like to tell me, something you think is important for people to know, anyone who's going to listen to this interview?

-Well, they should promote fishing, because the fish supply hasn't run out. It's simply the fact that generations have encouraged more fishing for spiny lobster (Panulirus argus) and queen conch (Strombus gigas)—it's not because there's no fishing, it's that their visions have been different. The fact that they, through a kind of charitable scheme, because it's true, a fisherman would go and catch a quintal or two quintals of fish, maybe it was a little more money, but they paid 80 chavos per pound of fish; the first one was practically 2 pesos back then. Now, practically, you go and get 10 pesos for snapper, 10 pesos for lobster (Panulirus argus). The fact that there was that change, well, they stopped fishing more, the fish as such, because I imagine that now one goes fishing for parrotfish and there has to be parrotfish, the fact that how many years have passed since fishing, without catching it.

-But that's because he thinks that people who buy fish prefer spiny lobster (Panulirus argus) and queen conch (Strombus gigas) and don't know much about other fish out there...

-No, maybe the fact of changing the visions, stop fishing for the fish that they caught before and now only when you go you find carrucho (Queen conch, \*Strombus gigas\*) (queen conch) or you find a capitán (Hogfish, \*Lachnolaimus maximus XXXIV\*) (hogfish) or you find chillo (silk snapper). Well, then I say that people here are filled with the eye, so they have always liked colored fish, they have always liked chillo because it is red, it is not because it is better, well, it is a better category, but there are pejes, there is cojinúa (blue runner) there is cachicata (white grunt) and they are good pejes.

-What is your favorite fish (Blue Marlin, \*Makaira nigricans XLII\*)?

-Well, for me the mahi-mahi, the dorado, (Dolphin, \*Coryphaena hippurus\*) is my favorite fish (Blue Marlin, \*Makaira nigricans XLII\*).

-Do you catch it?

-Yes, Jesús fishes sometimes, but when it comes to the easier and more accessible fish, almost no one catches them to eat them, but at least the fishing community almost always catches them: the jarea (White mullet, \*Mugil curema XXXVI\*) (white mullet). And they use it for bait.

[01:09:02]

-And why do you like it?

-Because it has a lot of meat and it tastes good. I like white mullet (Mugil curema XXXVI\*) more than silk snapper. I love white mullet (Mugil curema XXXVI\*) more than silk snapper, and whenever we go fishing for bait, sometimes if we catch a little, I'll eat it. We'd rather eat it than save it for here.

-And how do they eat it? What do they do?

-We can eat it fried, eat it in broth, it can be eaten in different ways.

-Who cooks in your house?

- They.

-And do you eat fish (Blue Marlin, \*Makaira nigricans XLII\*) every day?

-I'm not much of a fish eater. I like white mullet and mahi-mahi. But Jesús is more of a fish eater. If you give him fish every day, Jesús will eat fish every day.

-Well, thank you very much for the interview, and I hope it goes well with your vision. Well, I'm going to stop recording now.

—-----Audio # 2: (00:18:19)

-Well, I'm back with Interviewee, because a friend, a neighbor, I don't know what, said that you're godfathers, you're his godfather, but, well, he told us that you're like an encyclopedia, that you know very well without using modern technology the best times to go fishing and how to catch certain types of fish, that you have a knowledge that's rare, and that comes, perhaps, from the fact that you come from a family that's been fishing in this place for many generations. Can you tell me a little about that? At first, you told me that no one specifically took it upon themselves to teach you, but that you still learned in a certain way, what do you think?

-Yes, because practically my entire life has been in the fishing community, because my grandmother, my parents, my uncles, they're all fishermen themselves. And maybe I picked up tips from here, tips from there, maybe that's the knowledge they say I have.

-But tell me a little bit, you get up in the morning and what do you focus on? Or in the afternoon, what do you focus on? How do you decide: 'Today I'm going fishing for this type of fish,' or 'Today I'm not going,' or 'Today is good for this'?

-At least, Jesús has the habit of telling me to always check the weather, but in my experience, I know that the weather isn't 100% safe, because it's happened to us on occasions, that we've gone out and the weather forecast tells us: 'the maximum winds are going to be 15 miles' and when you come to check, there are already 50-mile winds, it's happened to us. We've been fishing out there, practically 6 miles away, fishing for snapper, and there was an experience that we took to a friend of ours, who's a painter, and we cast out the cove and my friend said to me: 'Interviewee, how big is that wave coming there?' And I said: well, let's say a foot and a half, 2 feet high, and she said to me: 'And is it okay?' And I said to her: 'The weather forecast says that the wind is going to be 15 miles, that it's going to be good.' I told her it was going to be good because we, at least, have experience fishing for snapper. We've been fishing for snapper in winds up to 30 miles, and we find it a little difficult, but bearable. And I'd say that in less than an hour, she said to me: "Interviewee, how far back is that wave?" And the waves were rising until they were practically 5 feet.

[00:03:06]

And the weather forecast said maximum winds of 15 mph. We had to wait for Jesús to come up to the cove. We had to wait half an hour, practically, to close it while the cove rises. We didn't manage to catch snapper when we fished, but he managed to catch gar, and we came back. And we practically had to leave. Jesús lowered the hood of the boat. We got hit by such strong winds. When we got here to the shore, we found out there were winds of over 60 mph. Along the way, the waves were constantly coming into the boat, along with the wind. There was no rain, just the wind itself pushing the water into the boat, and we... Jesús had a new life jacket, it's still in the little package, and it blew away. Jesus said: let him get to Santo Domingo (Blackline tilefish, \*Caulolatilus cyanops\*) if he wants to get there, because I'm going down there, I can't turn back, because it was more... We traveled practically 1.5 miles and the wind was practically pushing us back half a mile and Jesus said: No, let the life jacket stay, down there. And we started. When we got here, practically, to the bay, was when the Weather Channel said: there are sustained winds of up to 50 and 60 miles.

-Well, and since then you don't trust so much in...

-No, no, I don't trust the weather.

-So how do you do it?

-Right now we practically get up, Jesús. Sometimes we get up at 5 in the morning so that Jesús can be out at least by 6, for the chillos. I get up and check everything, I check that there are no clouds, that there's no wind. If there's no wind, or clouds, to the southeast, which is practically where Jesús spends his time, if there's no clouds, I don't see any wind, or anything, I tell Jesús: 'Wait... Get ready to fish.' If when the sun rises, the clouds clear, then he can come out. And then I let myself be carried away by the weather. If the weather says that after 11 there will be 11 or 12 mph wind, well, I tell Jesús: 'From 11 on, you have to be careful.' If the wind, the weather says 11, but the wind can get up to 15 mph. Even if I tell you the wind is going to blow at 15 miles all day and you get cloudy, forget that I told you 15 miles, because when the cloudy weather hits, the wind is going to blow you away. I've told Jesus this. I tell him: 'Jesus, as soon as you see the cloudy weather, leave.'

[00:06:09]

-And they also told me that you and Jesús are kind of unique, because you know how to fish for certain types of fish that almost no one else knows how to fish for. I mean, do you sometimes set out to fish for a certain type of fish and know how to do it? Do you ask? Or do you just go and find out what it's like?

-In that case, maybe he told you why, Jesús. Now I'd say I've been with Jesús for practically 30 years. And he's been fishing for practically 28 years. I'd say the first 5 years and years before that, Jesús only dedicated himself to free diving and sawfishing (zero). So, when he says that I know, perhaps, some way of fishing, it's because the fact that we, Jesús fished so much, sawfish, well, we already knew the seasons; right now, in May and June, at least here, there's a peak of sawfishing, and Jesús always went out in May and June, dedicated himself specifically to sawfishing, line fishing, that is, fishing with live bait.

And as for the electronics, well, I'm the one who deals with the GPS, because Jesús has vision problems. He can't have all the GPS knowledge. Even right now, when he goes out alone, it's difficult for him. Sometimes he can turn on the GPS and accidentally press a button, and it gets deprogrammed. I know how to program it, but then I don't know how to explain it to him, because me seeing the GPS isn't the same as him doing it, and he has to keep pressing and discarding, checking and discarding, because sometimes he doesn't know how to do it.

And what do you do when the GPS doesn't work?

-Sometimes it's difficult for him, because with the squeaks, it's quite difficult for him, because of the depths. He uses the GPS because he also has the Sonar included in the Depth Finder on the GPS. So, he knows the depths from the GPS, so it's difficult for him.

What would you do if this technology didn't exist? What would fishing be like, because your father didn't have this technology, right?

[00:08:50]

-No, of course not, but what they did was mark. Right now, the fishing line you throw out with snapper was marked with colors. Right now, at so many fathoms it had such a color, at so many fathoms you had such a color. So, they had to keep throwing out the line to know the depth of the fathoms, to know the fishing areas. That's the good advancement that GPS is, and the fact that by locating it, you get to the spot faster and more safely. Because, at least for us, practically, since 2000 or so, right?, we started using GPS. Because I learned with it, and what I did was, I looked at the mountains and aligned that little house with that stick. It aligned, and I said to Jesús, Jesús said to me: 'Are you sure this is it?' 'Go straight ahead, so that such and such a thing aligns with such and such a thing.' There were people who didn't... There are always fishermen who snort at other fishermen, who say to them: Ah, but you did catch and tag that cow, (Butter hamlet, \*Hypoplectrus unicolor\*) and the cow (Butter hamlet, \*Hypoplectrus unicolor\*) rolled in.

-And what can you tell me? Did you learn anything about seabeds from your family? Which seabeds are good for certain fish?

-That, maybe, yes. But I learned most of it from Jesús, because the fact that Jesús dived, Jesús practically knows all the seabeds, because he's dived practically the entire platform here, Jesús has dived it. I tell him he was like Aquaman, because before Jesús started fishing with him, Jesús was freediving from 6 in the morning until 6 in the evening, he dived alone. He moved his boat, he took his boat, the fishing boat, he jumped in, and then he came dragging the boat from La Parguera to here, he came dragging it in Los Pesqueros, he stopped in Los Pesqueros, he caught the queen conch (Strombus gigas), he brought the queen conch (Strombus gigas) into the boat. He was like that practically 12 hours a day and he didn't even drink water.

-Tell me a little about your shipwreck?

-I wasn't in a shipwreck, what was the shipwreck that Carlos mentioned?

-(Jesus) Do you remember when I stayed there in…

-I'm going to approach Jesus.

-(Jesus) I was diving, here in, what is the name of this key…

-On The Wave?

-(Jesus) In The Wave. And I was with someone, and I said to him, 'If the engine doesn't start, drop the anchor. Don't try to start it, drop the anchor first.' Well, that's what he didn't do; the engine died, he kept pulling the engine, pulling the engine, and when he came to check, he left me stranded. He came here to the shore and got out. And I, well, had to swim back.

[00:12:00]

I came fishing, I caught lobster, (Spiny lobster, \*Panulirus argus\*) I brought lobster (Spiny lobster, \*Panulirus argus\*) when I arrived. Then everyone was scared, because they thought I had drowned, but nothing, I was on the shore, I walked out, over there, I went to the shore walking.

-I mean, not a shipwreck, just that he was practically lost, and they left him, and everyone thought he died... Or something...

-(Jesus) They thought, but I wasn't going to drown anymore, because I wasn't that far away. I think we were about a mile from the shore to here.

-I understand. And how did you learn to dive? Who taught you?

-(Jesus) You learn that on your own.

-Alone?

-(Jesus) You learn that on your own. You put on a mask and learn on the shore. You look toward the shore, you keep trying and trying until you learn.

-Wow. Did they do the same in your family?

-(Jesus) Yes, my brothers.

-What is the most important thing when diving?

-(Jesus) The most important thing is that if you are diving you are not too far from the shore, you are aware of the boats, if you hear a noise you have to look, if you see a boat approaching yours, because if you stay back they can run over you, because there are people who, well, fishermen do it too, who sometimes are struggling in the boat and are not looking ahead, if you are ahead they will run over you.

-I understand. That's the most important thing for safety. And are there any dangers when it's underwater?

-(Jesus) If I'm at the bottom and I'm going to get out, I have to keep an eye on the boat, because if I get out and I'm not looking up, I could hit the engine or the bottom of the boat. The most important thing is, or if you don't look up, to keep your hand like this, otherwise it might get stuck. You could get stuck with your hand and you'll know it's there.

-Are there dangers with marine animals sometimes?

-(Jesus) Well, I was diving with her once. When you're diving, you almost never look back. You're always looking ahead and searching to the side. And suddenly, I felt like she was yelling at me: to get out, to get out, because there was a shark. I didn't see the shark; she saw it coming after me. So what she did was throw the boat on top of the shark to scare it. But at no point did I see the shark.

-What did you throw to scare him?

-(Jesus) The boat. The shark grabbed him so he could leave.

-Yes, I approached the shark with the boat so that it would avoid him, because I was already completely behind him.

-(Jesus) Since I wasn't using a tank... I was snorkeling.

[00:15:00]

-On the lungs?

-(Jesus) Yes, I'm going above the water, I'm swimming, looking forward but I'm not looking back, you know, if the shark comes it'll grab me, I don't realize it's grabbing me, because I'm not looking back. Then she saw him and threw the boat at him and she was screaming at me, but I never saw the shark.

-And he didn't believe it until two days later.

-(Jesus) But yes, it happened to another diver.

-It wasn't until two days later that another diver told him the story at the same spot.

-(Jesus) What did he see the shark there?

-He encountered the same shark and abandoned the equipment.

-Wow. That place was claimed by sharks, it seems.

-(Jesus) It seems he lived around there because there was good food there and he was always around. It's there, past that point over there, past Punta Águila, about half a mile out.

-Have you ever returned there since that incident? Did you return to that area?

-(Jesus) Yes, every now and then. I haven't heard of a diver being eaten by a shark yet, and if it was, I don't know about it yet.

-If you could tell me, please, I don't know who, one of the two, the person who came by here told me that they're teaching the fishermen here how to fish, is that true? Okay. Interviewee.

-Well, maybe in a way, yes. Because the fact is that if new fishermen come and ask, sometimes tourists come and ask, Jesús tells him about his experiences, we always ask for the protection of the mangroves, which is what brings us food, and we've always been proud of being fishermen, for that reason, for the satisfaction of bringing fresh food to a home. Our grandchildren are already on the rise too; they already know how to fish, they already fish with their rod.

-How old are the grandchildren?

-There is one who is 8, there is one who is 4 and the oldest is 13.

-And the 3 of them are here?

-Yes, all three are in the area, close by, and all three of them like fishing.

-(Jesus) They want to teach me.

-That's right, the 8-year-old even had a tourist come and he was teaching him how to use the wand on the pier.

[00:18:00]

-(Jesus) I was teaching them on the dock how to cast and how to fish for tarpon. (Elopidae) After that, they even took pictures with them.

-Okay, I'm going to stop.