The result is that it is very difficult for them to come, but at least they know what our problems are.

Well, can you start by telling me a little about your story? How did you get into fishing, at what age, and why? Did you have family members involved in fishing or anything like that?

Well, yes, I grew up by the sea. Of course. As a young man, well, I fished for fun, right? But always doing sports at sea. Sailing, canoeing, and I started fishing like that. At first, it was for that, right? As a boy. Well, nothing, to have a little money to go to the movies and stuff, right? But anyway, I started fishing hard in the Canary Islands. Especially tuna. I also fished a lot in [INAUDIBLE], which was already fishing, more deep-sea fishing for whitefish. And then I started traveling on sailboats and such until I settled here, in Puerto Rico. Not in Puerto Rico. In Culebra. I felt like I was in Culebra. And here, well, always diving, fishing with lines, and so on. I worked a lot on a cobia farm project. We set up a fish farm here, and it went well. And with that I saved up to buy my little boat and there I continued fishing, especially in the boxes with lobster (Spiny lobster, \*Panulirus argus\*) and nibbling a little at deep-sea fishing and so on.

And your family was never into fishing?

Well, no. Not on my father's or mother's side. But I did have relationships with fishermen since I was a kid.

In Spain?

And.

Can you tell us where you grew up in Spain and when you came here?

I came here when I was 24, 25, 27, around there, yes. I was in Galicia. Then I did a lot of fishing in the Canary Islands, and I came here. I started coming back in '92. I worked on a sailboat, good people, and we all did charters here during the season, and the first year, for a while. Until finally, I settled here in Culebra.

What did you get with the charter at that time?

It wasn't a very family-oriented charter, was it? I had a small, 65-foot steel boat with a compressor on board. And so, we handled groups of friends who usually came from Spain. I sailed a lot around here. Mona Channel, Toucan, Caicos, Silver Bank. Well, sailing, sailing.

[00:03:19]

When you mention "charter," do you mean that it was a family boat for you to travel on?

Yes, it was very familiar.

Didn't people pay to be on your boat to go fishing or going for a ride?

No. No, because that was familiar. It was more or less for maintenance.

To clarify, the definition of "charter" in Puerto Rico is a paid rental trip.

No. This is mostly due to experiences with biologists, too, back then, right? I also worked with biologists in the Canary Islands, because sometimes fishermen come to me to do field work and test new techniques and new fishing areas.

And then – sorry. No, no, go on.

No, it's very difficult to summarize life like that in four sentences. But oh well.

When you moved here 20 years ago or something, you told me?

Further.

More or less. How did your business change? Or, well, it's not a business. How did your fishing change?

Well, this town is very small. It's not just fishing here. You also work in the fields a little bit. A little bit of boat building and repair. I mean, it's not just focusing 100% on one type of work, right? I've always fished, but before fishing, I had to have my own boat and so on. It's all gradual, so to speak, right? Little by little.

Did you do a little bit of everything? A little bit of construction. A little bit of everything.

Yes, because I spent some time in construction until I found the job I was telling you about earlier, with the cobia. A farm that was being tested here in Culebra. And I was there for about six years from the beginning until they moved to Panama.

And what were you doing there?

Coverall.

Coverall.

General maintenance.

General maintenance. And now he's still a diver?

Yeah.

What do you take with the diver?

Well, as a diver, I work a lot with coral biologists at IUPI. I also do maintenance on Muertos. I mean, The Moorings and whatever. Something that gets lost. General-purpose work. And of course, sometimes not much. I don't like fishing. I mean, I don't like fishing from other [INAUDIBLE].

[00:06:11]

How do you fish?

I fish with a pot, a creel, a lobster box (Spiny lobster, \*Panulirus argus\*) and a fishing hook. I also fish with a codfish, a grouper (Nassau grouper, \*Epinephelus striatus\*) and the like.

And what fish–

There's good fishing here. There's a really good catch of Nassau grouper (Epinephelus striatus). It's fertile water, that is.

Have you noticed any changes in the marine environment since you first moved here until now?

Well, there are always good years and bad years. In the sense that sometimes one thing happens, other times another fish comes, and other times another comes. That's typical, isn't it? For example, one year of capital, one year of no capital. But no drastic changes.

Drastic changes?

No. Sometimes there's lobster. (Spiny lobster, \*Panulirus argus\*) Sometimes there isn't. Sometimes there's only baby lobster. In other words, you don't catch anything because you have to go back to the sea. Well, that's the way the sea is, isn't it? It never settles.

What do you like most about living here, about your job?

Well, let's see. The good thing about this little island is that there's still that camaraderie, right? I mean, like it used to be, where one neighbor helps another. And "Today for you, tomorrow for me." That kind of thing you don't see in the city.

Can you give me an example of such a helpful situation?

Yes. You always need a tool, or a pole, or whatever. And always helping someone and such. Everyone knows something about each other. So, that's why there's collaboration, right? Yes, that's the order of the day. Here, everyone helps each other. Yes.

Were you here for Hurricane Maria?

Of course.

Can you tell me a little about what happened in those days?

Well, before Maria, another one came two weeks before that caused a lot of damage in San Tomás, a lot. It also caused damage here. So, we started doing things—because they were under curfew there. So, we collected supplies and sent food to San Tomás.

Are you referring to Hurricane Irma?

Irma.

Irma.

Irma came two weeks or a little more later.

Then he left.

It left, yes, quickly. We're here putting up the poles and such, but everyone was organizing packages and such to go with electricity to leave them there in San Thomas, and there they distributed it to the people, because they had a bad time there, right? And soon after, four days later, it hit the East Coast hard, hard, hard. And it hit us. Of course, it hit us too. But we were lucky because it was a hurricane. They passed quickly. They weren't stagnant like Hugo was. Hugo came here and stayed here all on top of it, pounding away. So, of course, the house that didn't break the first time broke the second time, and so on, right? It was very disastrous.

[00:09:43]

Hurricane Hugo was in 1985.

More. '89.

89? That was a major hurricane at the time.

And here he did a lot of damage.

Here in Culebra it did a lot of damage.

Do you remember –

No, I wasn't there. I came here in '92, but there were still remains, and people were getting busy, right? After that.

But after Hurricane Irma came, which was the one that came before Maria, Maria came. And Maria was more powerful than Irma, right?

Here is where there were so many things broken, I didn't know.

So how did you react to Maria? Because it was a complete desolation, wasn't it?

Well, they helped us a lot here. Compared to many municipalities on the Big Island, Culebra was so-so. No one here suffered from hunger or such extreme hardship. There was a power plant that was turned on at night. All things considered, things weren't that bad. I know that downtown and all that, they had a terrible time. Very complicated. It hit us all, of course. Of course, there are always problems. But it wasn't as bad as it could have been in other places.

And did the fishermen have any role with the village of joining the village to help the people here?

[INAUDIBLE] For example, I lost my art. I lost all of that. Corrientes devastated everything. And those of us who walk around with pots and boxes, well, we lost everything.

Did you lose everything in Hurricane Maria?

Yes. The boat.

About fishing and fishing gear. I have a question, Interviewee. After Hurricane Maria, how did you—and you, especially as a fisherman—get back on your feet to recover your fishing gear? Did you go fishing? Was there electricity for the fish buyers, or what did you do with the catch if you were fishing?

[00:12:07]

Well, if you don't catch much, it's easy to sell. Because they're a bit of a family. A bit of a different family. I mean, here I've always had a problem, since the village closed many years ago, because the fisherman has two jobs: fishing and selling. Then, when he gets to land the next day, he has to go to the few people distributing, looking to see who wants how much, and that's it, right? So, of course, he has plenty of time, but it's another day from when you fish and then another day to go out. That's what they have, right?

The fish you had stored during Hurricane Maria, wasn't there anything?

Nothing.

Didn't they lose anything in terms of fishing?

Just.

Because I have heard stories from other fishermen in other areas who say that what they had stored in the freezers, they gave it away to the –

To the village. Well, that's what everyone does when the power goes out. [INAUDIBLE] The first day, they just eat. Then it runs out. But of course, it has to be done. You have to share it until it rots, right? But I want to emphasize. It did damage, of course. Many people lost their homes and all that. But others were worse off. It took them longer to settle down, and, well, it's not easy. It's not easy.

And were you able to go fishing after the hurricane?

Little by little. Starting from scratch, of course. Everyone asks for a loan, but nothing. Better not. And so, better, little by little. Winning the fights and they got in.

How long did it take until you could go fishing like before?

So, back to normal? For a year.

One year.

For a year, between one thing and another. Because we were like—you have to start little by little. So many homeless people. You have to help one. You have to help another, I don't know. It was a bit of an uphill battle, wasn't it?

He had to do many other things as well. He couldn't just return because the traps and everything he used were destroyed.

I had to save up to buy ropes and materials and start looking again for what I had. Of course.

And what did the sea feel like after the hurricane? How was the fishing?

Well, there are ups and downs. At sea, there are ups and downs, right? There are months with more fishing. Months with less. But often, comparing so many years ago, yes, the sea always gives. It always gives. Little or nothing, but it always gives. Yes.

[00:15:12]

The hurricane.

The Tampa Bay team is sweeping the board.

Still.

And another one comes on top.

How important is the fishing you do now for your survival or subsistence?

Well, I'm a full-time fisherman, but the truth is I've lost a lot of my skill and I'm starting out with little else now. I'd say about 50%, because I also do some diving work and stuff like that. I really like collaborating with people on the island who are studying corals and reseeding, and all that. It's a job I like. I work on the shore, but it's very positive.

And do you eat the fish you catch from the water? Do you eat it with your family, or do you sell it all?

Well, how do you say it? It's an old saying. (Donkey grunt, \*Pomadasys crocro\*) "When there's fish, we eat meat. And when there's no fish, we eat fish," right? There's always fish to eat at home. There always is. The point is to boost the economy a little. Of course. But yes, if it's not one day, it's another.

What is your family's favorite fish?

Comemos mucha cherna. (Nassau grouper, \*Epinephelus striatus\*)

The goatfish.

Cabrilla.

Yes, the goatfish.

When you sell it –

There is a lot, and it is very good to me what is the –

How do they cook it?

Well, I'll tell you the truth, I make it in a pan, but steamed. I don't fry it. So, I make it so it absorbs the water. And when it cools, it stays with its broth. And if there's any leftover, it stays in its gelatin. I got the hang of that instead of frying it. I do it this way because I eat more than I fry it. Well, everyone helps, since I worked as a cook for many years. And fish, right? So, you always find a way to change it, right? It depends on tastes and, above all, change. If you cook it almost always the same, it's not the same.

Can you tell me a little about what you do when—if you could describe a typical day for you, like, fishing or work in general? A typical day for you, if you could describe it to me. From the moment you wake up until you go to sleep.

Well, yes, but well, I'm quite the improvisational type. I often wake up and don't know what I'm going to do yet. I have coffee, watch a bit of news, some music. And I go out into the village, thinking I'm going to do one thing, and I end up doing something else. Because that's village life, right? There's a way out here and there, unless I go fishing. If I go fishing, yes, right? But I don't know. Village life. I don't know how to tell you.

[00:18:22]

What did you do yesterday?

Yesterday? Well, I worked a little around the house and on the boat. Maintaining. And what else did I do? I did something else. Oh, yes, I started measuring some sails, and in the end, I ended up with only half of that.

And are you planning to go fishing tomorrow?

Tomorrow, yes. Tomorrow I'm going with Edwin. We're behind a corral that's dying, almost gone. Everything's dying. And so we're here, locating what little remains alive.

Is this work with research?

Yes, here on the boat, and I'm more or less accompanying them. We've known each other for many years, and we're a team.

Why do you think the corral is dying?

It's dying. It's dying a lot. At certain speeds. Some people can hold out longer than others, but...

Is that corral something that has been here since you were studying?

That corral, there were a lot of them. It's the one that grows like this upwards. I don't know the scientific name, to be honest. I just forgot the name.

Not the corral type. But isn't it something that was—brought here for the study? Was it always here?

Always. Always. There are millennials, but they're all dry.

And when did you notice that you were dying for the first time?

This is periodic, right? But the water is very hot. So, degeneration is periodic. It's better to talk about this, right? But it's reality, isn't it? It's degenerating, but it's outrageous. It's not something anyone tells you about, but seeing it every day is very sad. Very sad.

What happens when coral dies?

It never comes back. This isn't like a plant that can produce more seeds. We humans can do a little bit, but little by little.

Can you show me on the chart where the coral you are studying is?

Sorry?

Could you show me the map here of Vieques and Culebra, if you can? Where do you see it?

Well, let's see. We work a lot. Boy, did I bring my glasses.

Do you need glasses?

Yeah. Let's see. Where are we? Let's see, where are we? Let me get my bearings. First, Culebra is here. And Culebra is—we've been working, for example, a lot here at the Canal de la Reserva.

[INAUDIBLE].

Yes, between Culebra and Luis Peña. We work a lot on the canal here. We also work on Punta Soldado. Let's see.

[00:21:16]

If you can –

Now, damn, now what?

Let's see.

[INAUDIBLE]

If you could mark it for me, please.

Should I mark it?

Yes, mark it.

Well, this area is very small, right? But this here is the Reserve zone, which extends from here to here. So, we work a lot along this coast. This is something—there's Punta Soldado. But well, we also monitor everything in general, right? And the little islands around here. The waterfalls and all that. We monitor to see how everything is. But...

And now that we're on the chart, can you show me where, roughly, you think the most important areas for fishing in Culebra are here?

Man, everything is important, everything is important. But if we don't take care of the shore, because we often go, for example, to the mangroves around here or in [INAUDIBLE] or around here in La Pelada [ph]. We have to go to the mangroves to catch live sardines and then go out and catch tuna, for example. I mean, everything is important. It's everything. If you don't have bait, you're not going to fish. And with live bait, well, you have more movement, a better chance of catching, of tricking the fish better, right? I mean, everything is important in general. The shore, because if there's no fishing on the shore, you can't go out because your bare hands have already dropped.

Usually fish on the shore for

It's very important because it breeds everything. Fish generally breed on the shore, and when they're a little older, they move to the depths.

What fish is there that grows here on the shore, and goes here in the –

Everything in general.

All?

Everything in general. The mangrove is like a nursery. Exactly. There you dive into the roots and see all the tiny, tiny fish, but when they're big, you don't see them anymore. They're already searching. It's very important.

And what is the health of the mangrove here in Culebra?

No, man, it's good, but it could be better. They're doing quite a bit of damage to buildings and tourism, aren't they? Because there are people who, instead of coming for tourism, come to build a house. So, they break a little, and another breaks a little, and nothing happens. But in the end, those little bits add up to a lot. And that's what you did.

[00:24:18]

When you first came to live here, what was the impact of tourism at that time, compared to now?

Ugh, much less. Much less. This has become fashionable. And we'd like it to be better channeled, right? A little more respect. A little more respect in the sense that—well, that. That it be cleaner. That it be well-paid, that the tourism be quality, right? I know there's quite a bit of quality, but many people come here and don't understand anything due to a lack of information. And that, culturally, needs to be spread, it needs to be taught. That didn't just fall from the sky, right? There are people who do. People who don't.

When you say "he needs to be educated," what do you believe? In what?

No, it's done. But there's always more that can be done. It's about organizing activities, knowing what they can and can't step on when they go to the beach. They can walk on the sand, but they can't step on the coral, for example. These are small details after so much tourism from boats that don't know how to drop anchor and break everything. Unintentionally, ignorantly. And these are things that get out of hand due to a lack of organization. That's why we're quite committed to making the fishing village work so we can organize ourselves better, right? And to take care of what we have. That's one of our biggest goals. And for young people to get involved with what we have, and so on. That's what we're looking for.

Can you tell me a little more about life in Pisco? How did you get involved when you started, and what role do you play there?

The fishery worked very well years ago, and then it deteriorated considerably until it closed. Because there were people who, to earn a few more pesos, per pound and such, sold the good stuff on their own, and left the bad fish for life. And it got stuck, right? But it was more the previous generation, right? The people who showed up. There are few left. So, now we're finally organizing to reopen it and make it a little more fair. And not just as a fishery, but as what we were before protecting our shore, right? Protecting. Let's see.

[00:27:17]

When you say, "a little fairer," what does that mean?

You know what happens, for example, when a yacht comes and throws itself into the Reserve. It throws all the chain it wants on the coral reefs, breaking them, and nobody says anything. Things like that, right? I mean, they're crazy. They do these outrageous things, and nothing happens. I mean, these are outrageous things that happen, and we have to control them so they don't happen.

And does the fishing village have a role in that?

The good thing about the fishing village is that it brings us all together. It's something that every family has; there's a fisherman, and there's a hobbyist or someone who was one. So, there's no politics or anything. We just like it. It's in the blood of the people here, right? So, it's very easy for people there to understand each other.

And you're not Puerto Rican, obviously. You haven't felt there's a difference, right, in the way you're treated. Because you're not Puerto Rican from Culebra versus Puerto Ricans from Culebra, born or raised here. Do they treat you like you're just another Puerto Rican?

Yes, yes, now. I've been here for so long. Now yes. And besides, I'm not really into gossip, that whole cousin thing. No. I'm never going to say, "Man." I never had a problem with that. No. Not before or when I arrived here. Of course, because here everyone does what they want. But let's see. What we talked about before, right? Here people know each other's worth. So, for example, I helped people a lot repairing boats with my experience, right? And then, from there, well, I was able to help. And you can help me with something else, with your experience in fishing, what do I know? There's collaboration, right? Like between friends. I think you understand me, right? He's that guy from a small town, right?

And are there only male fishermen here, or are there women too?

Yeah.

Yeah?

Yes. The thing is, here, we catch a lot of fish for home. Not for trade, but that's normal. We go fishing there for a few days when the moon is nice so we can always have him at home, right? There are a lot of women who like him. Yes.

[00:30:10]

So, who's buying? If almost everyone fishes from home, who buys the fish you sell in the fishing village?

Well, it depends on the season. Sometimes it's locals, and other times it's people from outside or businesses. And restaurants. You channel them however you can.

What are the sales seasons?

Well, from here on out. Right now it's a little low. Right now it's more or less like this, for home, for us, and all that. But from here on out, high season begins. Everything starts to fill up, and well.

Is there a difference between the fish you sell to locals and the fish you sell to tourists?

In price? No?

No, in the type of fish.

Well, tourists don't buy the fish they know. But of course, yes, local people really like the fish they love, right?

Like what?

Bluegill (\*Lepomis macrochirus\*) and such. These are fish that, since there are few of them, are more familiar. Snails, for example. Snails are a type of fishing that you can almost never go to. Because when people break—so, most of the people who go for snails, they go home. That's what's marketed because—

"Snails, do you mean burgao? (West Indian Top Shell, \*Cittarium pica\*)

A burgao, (West Indian Top Shell, \*Cittarium pica\*) sí.

And "chopas" what do you mean?

Bluegill (\*Lepomis macrochirus\*) would be –

Describe what he/she is like physically.

The red-faced one? The cushion?

It's like vertical, bold with a yellow dot.

¿Pejepuerco?

No. The chopa. (Bluegill, \*Lepomis macrochirus\*) The tail. (Bluegill, \*Lepomis macrochirus\*)

Yes, I've heard "chopa," but I can't remember right now.

And it's very pretty. It looks yellow. Yes.

Is it a snapper?

No, no, no, no.

It's not a snapper.

Then we looked for "Chopa." Common name for "chopa" in Culebra.

Bluegill (\*Lepomis macrochirus\*) is a fish that isn't sold commercially, isn't it? And yet a friend gave it to him, and so on.

Aren't you a doctor?

No.

No. The doctor is what you're looking for. The bluegill (\*Lepomis macrochirus\*) is [INAUDIBLE].

Let's see if I can find it.

The doctor too. The doctor is a fish that's kind of homemade, right? They're for—right?

Can you tell us if there is a special recipe with bluegill (\*Lepomis macrochirus\*) that the locals make here?

[00:33:04]

Fried tacos.

Fried?

It's eaten fried, but it must be handled very carefully because the casing can damage the meat. It must be removed carefully. It must be cleaned carefully.

Isn't that a parrot? The parrot?

No, it's not the cotorro. The bluegill (\*Lepomis macrochirus\*) has been smelling in the gut and staining the meat, so it's no good anymore. It needs to be cut up and pulled out.

And are there others?

There is no Greater amberjack, (\*Seriola dumerili\*), is there?

No, no, no, neither.

Well, we'll get to that later. Is there a recipe you brought from Spain? Anything special you brought here, and do people still eat it or eat it at home?

No. Well, actually, no. No, that's not the one.

Neither? And that's what it's called "chopa."

Yes, bluegill (\*Lepomis macrochirus\*) but it is black, I say.

Finally, we search for it and paste it.

So it has a slightly shellfish-like flavor. And it's good for older people who really like to eat.

Well, and you told me a little about there being young people in the fish market, or that there are young people here who take care of that too?

That's what we want. So, we're there, pushing a little bit. Because fishing is a profession that, if you love the sea, and you're organized and channeled well, is a decent profession. So, you can make a good living. But of course, we have to encourage young people to come there, right?

And what do they do to encourage it or what do they think they should do?

Well, we're slowly opening up, and we're just getting started. We haven't opened yet. But there are talks and such. One day we'll do one thing, the next day we'll do another. It's a lionfishing tournament, and so on, like a half-game, but involving, right? Beach cleanups, activities.

And those are things that the people there put their minds to doing?

I'm telling you, we're just getting started. The thing is, this hasn't opened yet, and it's not producing, and it's all a case of "I want to, but I can't," right? Let's see if in three or four months, the work will be finished and all the legal paperwork is ready to open the doors. But now we're sort of cheating, right? I mean, we know it's going to happen, but it takes time. It takes time, but it's very positive. And everyone is sympathetic. I'm telling you. It's something we're all interested in making this work. And above all, that the classic bar that was about to be passed doesn't come, right? Someone comes from outside, sets up the fish market, and we all work for them, right? Well, thank God, no. We're already channeling it.

[00:36:25]

Well, do you have any things you wanted to say to the next generation or the people listening to this interview about fishing in Culebra?

Of course, they should be encouraged. Of course. With the kids, we always try to get them involved to learn. Because it's all about getting started, right? It's all about getting started. And one day like that. Let's see another and so on, to get motivated. For me, I've worked in many things, but fishing is the best because there's no boss. You trust your intuition, your colleagues. Work is very happy. And even more so now that it's hot.

How do you feel when you go out to sea to fish?

It changed my life. Well, I'm a sailor. So, on land, I'm always making mistakes. On a ship, no. On a ship, I know how to walk. But on land, you're always—well, doing what you shouldn't do. Saying what you shouldn't say. It always hits you.

What does a young person need today, or in Culebra, who wants to make a living fishing here? What does he or she need?

Well, logically, that support, right? But also security. We'll see now—well, now you lack technology even for fishing, but not as much. The technology is almost all on land. To fish, what you need is perseverance. Technology is there to have security, to have good fish finders or whatever, GPS. But it's like before. It's a matter of whether you like it or not. I don't know how to put it. What you need is desire. So, a lot of people come, try it. Some stay, others don't. But the point is that, to encourage them, right? Because there are few people. If I hadn't opened this fish shop, and the way we're planning it, the truth is you don't have the support to build trust? One day you go with one person, the next day with another, and they draw their experience and conclusions. Very personal. Very personal. And there are people who know a lot. Who learned from their parents, grandparents, and all that. These are things that are good to have there on your hard drive, right?

[00:39:26]

Are there young people who come to learn, who say, "I want to learn," "Take me with you" or something like that?

Sometimes yes. Sometimes yes. From diving. But well, you know that communication between one generation and another isn't that easy. Unless it's family or someone very close, well, there's always a distance. A barrier, right? That's why it's good to have the association, to bring us together more. Those on one side, those on the other, those from one side, those from the other, and so on. The issue of fishing isn't just about fishing itself. It's about all kinds of consequences that we need and from which we learn from each other. Because we old people also learn from the young. I mean, it's reciprocal, right?

Can you give an example of something you've learned from a young person, and vice versa, that a young person has learned from you along the way?

A concrete example? Much more than anything from young people, I learn how comfortable I am with technology and all that, right? And they can perhaps learn patience from me. Because, of course, you have to have patience and endurance. And if bad things come up, well, you have to put up with them and all that, right? It's a bit more about that, isn't it?

What technology do you have on your boat?

Ah, I have a phone, and I don't know how to use it. Just to talk. No, I'm not very—I have GPS and the [INAUDIBLE], maybe, but I don't know.

It's traditional. Are you going fishing again?

Yes, the usual. But of course, I also had it 30 and 40 years ago. So, in that sense, I haven't made much progress.

Well, thank you so much for sharing with us. Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about climate change or anything you remember?

Yes, the truth is that it makes me sad. But yes, what I was saying before about climate change, that water is incredibly warm. You see changes. You see them there, there are algae colonizing, invasive. You see very strange things that didn't happen before.

[00:42:08]

Since when did you start seeing strange things?

Well, one year one thing happened, another year another. But climate change is affecting corals above all, for example, which are living beings that are increasingly enduring less. They are increasingly enduring less, and so there is a lot of mortality. That's how it is in general. For example, last year, about a year and a half ago, suddenly the sea urchins, the big ones, these huge sea urchins, suddenly all died. No one ever knew why, but they disappeared. Now you see one or two. I mean, they're surprises like that. But one thing, one time one thing happened, another time another happens. Which is serious because it's an example of how bad things are for us. And it's worrying. Worrying. Because the coral arrives, then the fish. And then, a lot of invasive algae arrive. Well, the chain itself, well, there are very large steps and it's unbalanced, yes. I don't know. I don't like to talk about it, right? But yes, of course, I would like to talk if there were solutions, but...

It is a reality that we are all experiencing.

Yes. Of course. But what I'm telling you, what happens is that they tell you. It's news in the newspaper and other media. I mean, they're going to tell you.

What do you think could be done to remedy all of this?

Well, respect and take care of what you have. It's that clear. Because it's better to do something than to do nothing. For example, what I was telling you before about the many days they want me to not know what's going on down there. And sedimentation. At least do something. But if you do nothing, it's worse. And a documentary and get people talking. It's better to do something than to do nothing.

Do people in Culebra talk about climate change in this way in general here? Is this talked about or how is it –

It's talked about and such, but no.

¿No?

I mean, no, because it's a very raw issue. Very sad. And what you're saying, what can be done? Well, barely. It's more work, more teamwork in general, right? For example, the laws. Here in Culebra, a reserve was created that's been around for 20, 25 years, and no Culebra residents go fishing there. But people come from all over, and they fish right there in front of us. So, what? You call them out, and they'll beat you up or burn your boat. I mean, there are laws that are enforced. The closed seasons, the queen conch. (Strombus gigas) Of course, when you can't fish, you can't fish. But you see that there are people doing it, so that's not respected. A lot of things happen. And so, the more equipment there is, the easier it is for those laws to be enforced. Because if not, everyone would say, "Oh, nothing's wrong." There are no fines. There are no sanctions. Everyone does what they want. But I say we've done what we can do, right? That is, we've taken care of what we have.

[00:46:12]

Well, thank you very much for sharing with us.

See you later. Let's get the pizza ready now. Let's not talk about it anymore.

Please.