Interviewer: Well, guys, this is a trial run. So, I appreciate you taking the time today. Mr. Interviewee, I've got to apologize for missing you when I was on island. It was my intent to come back and speak to you in person. Unfortunately, the end of the fiscal year has occurred, which means there'll be a little bit of a delay, but that doesn't mean that it's not important to me, and that's one of the reasons why I wanted to try to do this Zoom version because I believe that your story is critical and it needs to be out there for people to know and understand. I think that you have a world of knowledge with regards to fisheries and coastal issues and things that are going to become increasingly important as we talk about things like offshore wind development and climate change and these kinds of issues. I think it's critical to have your perspective. In addition, I think you offer a very unique perspective in that you come from a different side of fishing. You come from the for-hire/recreational side, and I think that it's important for us to get all perspectives when we talk about issues related to fisheries that we don't focus on one component versus the other, that we are informed by all components of the fisheries. So, first, let me say thank you. I appreciate you taking the time today. I appreciate the twenty years that you've befriended me and that we've had a great working relationship, and I look forward to another twenty years of us doing this together. I guess what I want to talk about is what's called an oral history. In a minute, I'm going to shut up and let you do all the talking because it's what you got to say that's more important than what I got to say, but an oral history essentially is an opportunity for you to explain your life's history of involvement in the fishery. It can even precede your own life. It could be the generations that came from before you that taught you how to do things. It can be the generations that are coming after you that are engaged in the fishery. It can be just basically an opportunity for you to tell us the importance of fisheries to you, to your family, and to your island. Let me begin by saying, why don't you begin by just giving us a little bit of background? Then feel free to just go ahead and start to speak to whatever you'd like to speak to with regards to fisheries.

Interviewee: Good afternoon.

Interviewer: Good afternoon.

Interviewee: My name is Interviewee from the Caribbean, born and raised in Antigua, moved to St. Thomas at the age of eighteen, start fishing here in St. Thomas back in 1965, and I'm fishing up to this day. Fishing. When we first started, the ocean was alive and well. You never go fishing; you call it “go catching.” At any point in time, you choose what you want to catch. You catch enough of the species in an hour; then you try something else. Now, back in those days, we called this area the Caribbean Virgin Territory because there was no tourism and we didn't know anything about blue marlin and stuff like that. Until when I came here, I get a job washing dishes at a hotel, and on my way back and forth, we stopped by a marina. Johnny Harms was the pioneer. He was from Kansas, and he was sent down here by the Rockefellers. The Rockefellers used to own Caneel Bay on St. John. Their boat was to take their guests out from time to time. I was lucky to start working on their boat. Fishing with a lot of different famous folks started from the Rockefellers. But Caneel Bay was the five-star hotel in the Caribbean, not only St. Thomas. I got a chance to fish with Hubert Humphrey, made movie with Jerry Lee Lewis, George Brett, and Dr. Lyman and Nancy Spire, very wealthy couple from upstate. And after, well, they used to be avid fishermen. Like I said, very wealthy. They used to come to St. John three, four times a year, go fishing five days a year. Back in ‘68/’69, they talked to the captain that I was a second mate on, about me working for them, and they bought a small boat. I was green as grass, didn't have the experience then, but they took me under their wings, and they put up with a lot of blunders from me. I worked for them for thirty-five years before they died. As a matter of fact, he practically died in my arms. Had Alzheimer's. He was in a nursing home in Nottingham, upstate New York, Syracuse. We were so close to each other. I couldn't stand him in a nursing home. His wife died before him, and the two kids he had challenged me and said he should be with me in St. Thomas. I was the only person he recognized at that time. I talked his company into sending me half a million dollars to buy a home for him, move him down, and I take care of him till he dies. I had two girls. My wife and I moved in and be with him until he died. What a wonderful couple. Fishing part of it – because of being with the right folks at the right time, I get to know a lot of people. Born here, born there, rich, poor, Black, or white, makes no difference. Fishing, like I said, was very good. We are one of the finest fishing. I may change a little bit with Johnny Harms, myself, Tommy Gifford, Spike Herbert, Lincoln, Jimmy Loveland – a whole bunch of us. We didn't know what fishing’s all about. When we worked together, we catch – I mean, you name it. In my career, first started, I tell myself I didn't want to be – those guys were ace, but I didn't want to be like anyone; I want to be myself. I pick a little spot, and I says, “I don't want to be like no one. I just want to do the best I can.” I pay attention to the stock. Back in '95, I saw where the ocean was crying out loud. I get a group of guys from the Caribbean – St. Lucia, Barbados, Trinidad, St. Martin, Puerto Rico. We form what we call a Caribbean forum to let the Caribbean know the state of the stock at the time because we know that the politicians didn't know much about – can't even swim – unless we and the fishermen tell them what's going on, and sometimes it's very hard to convince them. In '95, I was chose to lead a pack where we have Don Tyson from Tyson's Food, Bill Lambert, [inaudible] from Puerto Rico. We had [inaudible] Davis, and (Jose Valdez?) from Puerto Rico. They start sponsoring us – put together so we could hire personnel to be our – we didn't know Nicole at the time – to put us together. [laughter] We identified that because we're in the US, we couldn't get – we identified thirty-two different nations in the Caribbean, and we tried to reach out to all nations in the Caribbean. At that time, some of the islands were giving Taiwanese and Japanese permission to fish in the area. We saw the changes. They were fishing 24/7 with nets and everything. I know that – my little experience – the fish doesn't stock itself like that overnight. If we work together – something like (ICAD?) – they could fish when in abundance and give it a chance to recoup. It was pretty tough. We couldn't find the finance. We tried our best. We wanted our first meeting. We couldn't have it in St. Thomas because it's US, and a lot of our of island didn't have visa to come to St. Thomas for a meeting. A meeting at a time would have been between eighty to a hundred thousand dollars because we were going to fly fishermen – at least two fishermen from each nation – to sit in and hear their views and compare so that we could reach out to a politician to save our natural resources. Like I said, most people didn't understand fishing and stuff like that. Only now we start paying more attention to it because fishing is huge. Feeds a lot of people. Not only sport. So, we take that road, and we just weren’t successful. We couldn't find the financing. We didn't have people like you [laughter] around at that time so we could sit down and guide us. We are fishermen; we're not scientists. We're not the whatever. We just fishing, and we've been in the ocean, and we've seen the changes day-to-day. I used to fish two hundred days a year. Only people who don't care or a fool don't pay attention to what's now, what was there, and look for the future what it can be if we don't act. We're long overdue. I'm very happy that we find someone like you and Nicole that we can exchange ideas and hopefully make some difference for the future, maybe a big difference for the future.

Interviewer: Well, that's quite a compliment. I'm just a small piece in a big puzzle, but I'm glad to do what I can do, and working with you has been a pleasure in my life. I think someone like you provides an invaluable service because you talk about things over a sixty-year period of engagement. I'd like to speak a little bit more about that engagement. You mentioned fishing for food. You mentioned fishing for money. You mentioned fishing for nets. Were you always just a charter captain, or did you also engage in the commercial production, the commercial side of things? Did your species change if you were a part of the commercial industry as compared to just the for-hire industry?

Interviewee: At first, it was for hire as a mate being with Rockefeller; that's how I get started. Then, I went private with Dr. Lyman and Nancy Spire for a number of years.

Interviewer: So you were their personal captain for their vessel?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: Did you ever sell your catch?

Interviewee: Yes. We used to do commercial. The fish that we catch is just stuff like that. We would sell to the hotels and to whoever.

Interviewer: Were those pelagic species or is that bottom fish kind of thing?

Interviewee: No bottom fish. Pelagic. Tuna, dolphin, mahi, wahoo, bonitos, that kind of stuff.

Interviewer: As you progressed throughout your career, after the gentleman and lady had passed away, you obviously were no longer the captain of their boat. You became the owner. You were given that boat by them. Then, what did you decide to do after that transition?

Interviewee: Well, sometimes I get emotion over the history of their life.

Interviewer: Well, if there's things that you don't want to talk about, you don't have to talk about them.

Interviewee: That's alright. Later in life, he picked up Alzheimer's, and I was the only person he recognized. I used to fly up. He was in a nursing home up in upstate New York. I didn't like it after his wife died. His two kids said I was the closest person to him. So, I move him from nursing home back to St. Thomas, hired two ladies, moved in with him, and take care of him until he died. But there was something missing. As they get older, they call me up and says, “Go get a business license because when we go, the boat will be yours.” Even before they die, I start doing some chartering when they couldn't [inaudible] fishing much anymore. I start building a business on my own with the vessel that they turn over to me.

Interviewer: Who were your first clientele? Were they members of that elite class that you had known before, or were they new tourists coming to the island? Or were they local people?

Interviewee: My first? I'm not sure if it's Sue Boland or Byron Newland or (Ellie Hecker?). They were local fishermen and fishing lady. In these days, they call the ladies of fishers. [laughter] They were fishers. But there was a lot of ladies that normally go fishing and stuff like that and give the guys big challenge. I don't know. After I had the boat, one day – let me see. My boss asked me to take some friends out, and they invite another friend, and we managed to [catch] a world record fish on the boat. The guy who caught the fish, his name was Frank Miller, and he was in competition with the boss. [laughter] I had to call and tell him that his competitor caught the world record fish. [laughter]

Interviewer: Is that the blue marlin?

Interviewee: That's the blue marlin. I'll go back with a little history of [inaudible] fishing.

Interviewer: One-ton marlin.

Interviewee: The good fishermen those days – they're different than now. They never fish for really numbers. It was a challenge. We formed clubs that to be a master angler you have to catch what you call a big five. The big five at that time was the blue marlin, white marlin, yellowfin tuna, wahoo, sailfish. And then they break it down to be a master angler. You have to do it all on twenty-point test line. And they break it down over drinking in a bar after fishing. You know, the fishing story talk. I'm going to challenge you. We're going to do the twelve-point test line to get the grandmaster. [laughter] So it was a lot of fun, a lot of challenges, a lot of good memory, a lot of good sportsmanship in the business.

Interviewer: Were those formal sport fishing clubs, or were those informal groups that got together on a regular basis?

Interviewee: There was a group, but we also formed a game fishing club here. There was a club, and as a matter of fact, we had this gentleman from – I can remember clearly – Myron Hokin from Chicago. Owns a big hotel in Virgin Gorda called The Bitter End. He would sponsor an annual tournament, who caught the most sailfish for the year, who tied the most sailfish for the year. At the end of the season, everybody – not like now. There was no shirt and pants. Jacket and tie. [laughter] Real gentlemen and stuff. There was a lot of input in those days. Roll the clock back, what sport fishing has done for St. Thomas and the Caribbean – because when I first started, hotels and the tourist season start in November and finished in April – Easter. But as we –  Johnny Harms, myself, Lincoln, and a few other mates, Spike Herbert, Jimmy Loveland – we found Blue Marlin. Then the word spread, and folks start coming. When they start coming, the guesthouse had to open. Some restaurant has to open until it get kicked off.

Interviewer: Do you think that fishing actually created tourism opportunity? When people started hearing about this marlin catch, they said, “Better start building a restaurant and houses because they're coming?”

Interviewee: Definitely. I was part of that.

Interviewer: What year would you say that was when that was happening?

Interviewee: The late ’70s to the ’80s.

Interviewer: Now you guys used to have a big tournament there called the Boy Scout, right?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: And that tournament was a big marlin pelagic tournament that I believe was one of the largest, certainly in the Caribbean, but probably one of the largest overall for marlin. I know that it had a big philanthropic arm that it used to give back to many causes on the island. Can you speak to that tournament and what it also meant to lose that tournament to the people of St. Thomas, to the fisheries of St. Thomas?

Interviewee: Well, at first, our tournament here in St. Thomas was the Blue Marlin Tournament run by the Game Fishing Club. We used to start with an onshore/offshore, get everyone involved. This was before we get covered big time with the boats from Florida. We say Florida, but the state side. Used to be a lot of boats from Puerto Rico, St. Martin, Tortola, St. Croix come to our tournament. Then, the boats from the States – they used to go to Venezuela. They stopped by St. Thomas. They fall in love with St. Thomas. It was the US flag. You look up at – you feel when you're from the States, you're in St. Thomas, you're in the backyard; you're home. Not like you go to different nations and different flags and different government. So, St. Thomas had a big kickoff. Then, we went [inaudible] Rockefeller, Lyman Spire, Chuck (Sims?), Johnny Harms, Jimmy Loveland part of it, and a guy from St. Croix – I can't remember his name. They started to put together the Boy Scout Tournament, and we attract a lot of big money. Proceeds would go to the Boy Scouts. When Rockefeller from Arkansas, he was –

Interviewer: When you say Boy Scout, can you explain to people that you actually mean the Boy Scouts?

Interviewee: The Boys Scouts of America.

Interviewer: Of America, correct.

Interviewee: Yes, I remember we used to raise over hundred thousand dollars to give to the Boy Scouts. Was a very, very fine tournament. A lot of folks come in and love – it changes. What was the main reason for the changes? We were neighbors with the BVIs [British Virgin Islands]. For some reason or other, the boundary line doesn't go straight between the US and the BVI. It goes in at an angle. So, where we fish the most technically is in BVI waters. Then they came up. We got to get license. That was no problem. Then couple years ago, they started that in order to fish in the area that we [were] accustomed to, we got to go to customs and immigration every day and pay hefty fee. Right now, we are losing. Oh, man. We lost our arm and a leg. Most of the folks now probably go to the DR [Dominican Republic]. Not coming to St. Thomas. We lose our tournaments. In the summer months, in the morning season, we would have like twenty-five trips per month. You're lucky if you got ten. The hotels, all the gift shops, and everything, the bars that go kind of put a hold on it.

Interviewer: So, the tournament was impacted by the stringent regulations that BVI introduced to get their fee or to get whatever gratuity they could get from the folks that were coming to fish. But it carried over beyond the tournament and actually had an impact on the for-hire industry as a whole because people went elsewhere instead of coming here to fish.

Interviewee: Definitely, without a doubt.

Interviewer: So, that must have had an economic impact on the for-hire fishery. Did that mean people left, people quit, or they went and did other things?

Interviewee: Well, right now I'm the only size boat in the fishing fleet. Most of the guys are fishing for [inaudible] center console. Sometimes the fish will – yellowtails, whatever they can. The fish is so bad. Well, for me, I get a pass because they recognize that I respect the folks in the BVIs – years of togetherness – and they kind of grandfather me into the – when I go to get license, they says, “Interviewee, we don't worry about you.” But that's not the way it should be. It hurts us tremendously.

Interviewer: What did it do for all of the wonderful things that the proceeds or the money that the revenue generated? What kind of loss or impact did that have say on the Boy Scouts of America organization or your other philanthropic endeavors?

Interviewee: Okay. I'm going to give a wild guess. I think we lost a few million dollars a year. Probably ten million or maybe more because when folks come to fish, they bring their wife and their family. They stay in hotels. They rent cars. They spend money all over the place and stuff like that. It's not just the fishing or the fishermen. A lot of them will bring their boats down, like the Tysons and the [inaudible], and they may spend [inaudible] up to a hundred thousand dollars a year for the season.

Interviewer: When they would come down for the season, would they bring a crew, or would they hire a crew when they got here?

Interviewee: Usually, they bring a crew. They may hire one or two here, but most of us – I'm one of the few local involved in this type of fishing. There were some other guys from Anguilla, Tortola, [inaudible], and stuff like that, but they phase out early. Because of my connection with the Spires, I could hang in longer. They give me the boat, so I didn't have any bills to pay, so to speak, and whatnot. We did help when I was growing up. They give me a few pointers and guide me in the right direction so I can afford to do this. It’s not a – what should I say? It's not a financial [inaudible] business. It never was and never will be. And it's worse now. [inaudible] in the last five years is the worst I've seen. The very worst.

Interviewer: Now, is this for the industry or for the fish?

Interviewee: Both. But let's say the industry. First, we had hurricane knock us out for a couple years. Then we had COVID right after that. Set us back. And these are back-to-back years. And that's why a lot of the boats my size just couldn't hang in. And so far, this year is the very, very worst, even worse than after the hurricane.

Interviewer: Why do you think it's so bad this year?

Interviewee: Why? Fishing is not as good. We can't go into BVIs where we normally would go to. And I'm going to say something that's ugly. The hotels control the fishing, and they want a big percentage, and they pay you when they feel like.

Interviewer: Do you mean for booking charters or purchasing catch?

Interviewee: No, booking charters. Some of the hotels I don't work with because I have to buy fuel and pay for my fuel every time I fuel up. I got to pay my mate every week. I got to pay my dockage every month. And sometimes, for two or three months, they can't get him to pay you. It is a problem. Thank God now that some of us book off the internet. That works very well.

Interviewer: That's great. That's interesting. Again, you've got such a long history in terms of time. Give me a sense of the changes in the environment that you've seen since you first began. Not just the notion that maybe there were bigger fish and there were more fish, but what other kinds of things have you seen? You mentioned the two terrible hurricanes, Irma and Maria, that passed in the same year, ten days apart from each other. What kinds of things? I'm not going to put words in your mouth. What kinds of things have you seen since you were a youth when you started to today in terms of environmental changes? If there are any environmental changes?

Interviewee: Yes. This is not makeup story. This is a fact that I identified back in the ’80s, or even before that; we used to have the naval testing out of Vieques/Culebra, which is close by us. I remember we used to catch sailfish right off the rocks close to the island – a lot of [inaudible]. I saw millions of [inaudible] sardines washed up on the beach and die. We lose the sea urchin, a lot of species. And after we lose that bait population, we never see that sailfish population back again. Now, I don't know – we don't know why or whatever, but the bait is the foundation or the seed that we plant to grow to get bigger fish. Bait population are way, way down. The changes that I've seen that some of the species, the regular species – we used to get the mahi in the spring. Some, we start getting some in November, small packs of thirty, forty pounds in December/January, but March, April, May, big part of my eighteen to thirty pounds. Now, the entire Caribbean are catching four or five pounds, killing the babies before they get a chance to develop. That bothers me. They get to the point, in my estimation, if we don't put size limit, back limit for a period of time and watch it, see if that will help bring it back together. I know we have more marinas, more runoffs, more boats in the harbors, and stuff like that. It's a combination of things, I believe. But I do know, especially when I saw that hurricane, when I saw what happened in the Grenadines with all the money we got without food from farming and the ocean, we are going to be doomed. And I'm very happy to have you because my experience is not for yesterday, today, but it's for years to come for generation to generation.

Interviewer: What would your words be for the future, for the future of fishing, for the future of fishermen, for the future of your people of St. Thomas? What would your advice be, or what would your direction be?

Interviewee: One thing. When you're in the position to lead, you lead. It's not always easy. It's just like the big nations form (ICAD?). We in the Caribbean should form overall Caribbean fisheries control management, work together because we are so close to each other. If [there's] fire over there, it's smoke over here. No one nation, as close as we are – we're not the mainland that have mass amount of water, amount of [inaudible] except for the Bahamas. When you open the door, you're with your neighbor. To me, that's the main thing that we do. We are a group of people with the backing, the finance, and the right attitude to reach some of the heads of government. [Make] them aware. I go back further. When I talk to my guests, I says we're in the year of 2000. This planet was older than that, but we’re going to say 2000 because that was Jesus when he modernized this planet to some degree. The Caribbean was virgin territory. When I meet it full of fish, and when I see the danger, what we've done in forty years, look at it down the road, when we have more people, we have more disaster coming in that the land may burn up, the land may do this, save the ocean the best we know how. Together, we can do it. And you, I'm happy to have you because we are fishermen; we don't write, we don't go on stuff. But we are there from years and see what it was, what it is, and potentially what's ahead of us.

Interviewer: Right. It’s important that we understand that perspective and hear it. I just have at least one more thing. I hope this is not a negative thing. I hope it's a happy thing. Tell me the story that sticks in your mind the most about your entire life as it relates to fishing. Now, it could be something as tragic as a boat accident that just swam a hundred miles in from, or it could be something that, every time you think about it, and it just makes you smile ear to ear. But tell me a story about you, Interviewee, that makes you feel good.

Interviewee: Several stories. Because I did all of that – jump overboard a boat on fire and get fished out of water by other boats. But a couple of things that sticks out. I remember we were in the Boy Scout tournament, and down to the last day, I was ahead and a friend of mine, Spike Herbert, a Black guy – we start fishing together about in ’60 – hell of a guy, hell of a fishermen, good sense of humor. I had Don Tyson from Tyson's Food with me. When I was pulling out the dock, my buddy called me and says, “Interviewee, you're going to win.” I said, “What happened?” He said, “My boat break down. I can't go to the last day.” And I says, “To hell, I'm going to beat your fair and square.” I called down Tyson on the bridge and says, “I'm going to give him my boat. I got a friend boat in Puerto Rico.” So I called my boss in New York, and I called my friend in Puerto Rico to use his boat. Said, “Interviewee, whatever you want to do.” I took Don Tyson from my boat, put him on my friend's boat, and finish the tournament the same way. [laughter] We weren’t fishing for cutthroat. Everyone wants to catch the biggest and the best, but we were friendly, nice competition, clean way to live. One of the nicest things that we have here over the years – after a period of time, the guys from Florida come in, and they fit in like brothers. Whether things are good or bad, we talk to each other. We keep each other company. We never (lie?) or hide from each other. It's like a fishing family. They know me as Interviewee; they know my real name. I may know them as some other name, but we are brothers in what we do. And we love each other to death. [laughter]

Interviewer: I love hearing that notion of family and that notion of connection to one another. Does that connection extend beyond just the dock? When you have disasters like Irma and Maria, does that connection extend to helping each other and assisting each other in survival during those post-disaster times?

Interviewee: Well, definitely yes. Some of us, the old-timers, may move to Hawaii while we stay in touch, and when they hurt, we feel the pain no matter where we are. It's a lasting friendship that doesn't go away. As a matter of fact, I just lost a brother-friend from Puerto Rico. We've been together, a handful of us. His name was [inaudible] (Davis?). He and his buddy, all the guys that we spent years of fishing together, were more advanced in age. Every so often, I have to go to Puerto Rico to have lunch with them [inaudible]. [laughter] The stories that we tell, the togetherness – money can’t buy that kind of stuff.

Interviewer: What about after the storms in your communities when the houses are down and the trees are across power lines? How do you guys get through all of that together? Is it just family? Is it neighborhoods? What is it that you guys do to survive?

Interviewee: What do we do?

Interviewer: Because you guys get hit every year. You guys get hit just about every year. You guys are threatened by a hurricane.

Interviewee: I remember when we first hit with hurricane; we went fifty years without a hurricane, and then we start getting hit back-to-back. The island have several sides to it. Some people can't afford, and we help each other. I remember that in my place, I had a generator – no, I had no generator. I had an ice machine. When the federal government understand that I had an ice machine, and ice was very important at that time, they put a generator in my house, and they practically owned the ice machine. They handed out the best way they know how. But then, after Marilyn, my friends from Puerto Rico bring me a diesel generator, tied into my house. It's not everyone as fortunate as I am to have the outreach with friends and stuff like that. It comes from the boating public, the fishing public that we fish with, get to grow with each other, care about each other, and be there for each other. Right now, my wife just installed 40K in my house. We are going through rough times with power all through St. Thomas. I'm so happy that I can go to sleep. When the power turns off for two, three hours, my machine kicks in. I don't have to get up to go start it. [laughter] It's not everybody that – some have the gasoline engine, and they have to move around and stuff like that. So far, the good years that I spent fishing and being respectable and nice to folks paid off.

Interviewer: Yeah. Put out there what you want back.

Interviewee: That's right. And treat people the way you expect to be treated.

Interviewer: Correct. Can you do me a favor for this interview? Can you tell everybody now what sort of administrative positions recently that you've held or that you hold, so that they understand that not only are you a fisherman that shares knowledge on the dock, but your involvement in the process itself?

Interviewee: You want me to get a big head?

Interviewer: I got a big screen. Don't worry.

Interviewee: Okay. I received Lifetime Achievement Award from Billfish Foundation. I have three beautiful kids that I'm very proud of. They all served in the US military – Afghanistan, Korea, Guantanamo, Iraq. One of my daughters retired as Lieutenant Colonel in the military. I have a building that I own. I have a few apartments that I rent. I hate to sound like a (braggadocio?).

Interviewer: Just do it. [inaudible]

Interviewee: I maintain a little home in Antigua. As a matter of fact, back in the ‘80s, I saw some property for sale. I tried to get my local friends to do it. My boss here – I was talking about it, and he put the money up for me to buy ninety-five acres of land in Antigua. I never said I bought it because the price was so good. I said that I stole it. [laughter]

Interviewer: And what happened with that land?

Interviewee: I still have every piece of it.

Interviewer: And then you're also part of the marina?

Interviewee: And then, I have an investment in the mega yacht marina in Antigua called Falmouth Harbour Marina, and I got –

Interviewer: You're also the chairman of the FAC.

Interviewee: I'm also the chairman of the FAC. I've been the founding member of the VI [Virgin Islands] Game Fishing Club, the longest member. I'm the longest member in the sport fishing in the Virgin Islands, if not the Caribbean.

Interviewer: Have you worked with the council as an advisory panel member?

Interviewee: Yeah, I’ve done presentations. As a matter of fact, I helped one of our governors put the Marine Advisory Council – I met him. He hear about me, he come to see me, seek my advice, and I tell him – when he asked what he could do for me, I says, “Nothing.” Then I says, “You can do me a favor when you get in.” I said, “No one in government understand the marine industry and better the government, the executive or the legislative branch.” And I says, “You should put a marine advisory council together.” He finally get in, and he called me up and have me put it together for him.

Interviewer: That's fantastic.

Interviewee: I was asked to be the chairman of this council, FAC, and I was also asked to be on the committee of the [inaudible], but I can only do so much. The fishing is [inaudible] – just like you. Any advice, any experience, any knowledge anyone want to seek, you can call me.

Interviewer: Yes, sir. You are an invaluable resource. That is the truth.

Interviewee: Over the years, I hire crew from all walks of life, from the states, locally, and I'm never afraid to teach them everything I know. It was never a threat to my job. As a matter of fact, they've been a big asset to me because they remember Interviewee, who used to be nice to them, respect them, and never hide from them.

Interviewer: Man, that's wonderful. I really appreciate you taking the time out today to share with us. We have just a few minutes left, which I'm more than welcome to give back to you and Nicole, but I would like you to have, if there's one – if you would like to sum up, or if there's one thing that you would like – I mean, you kind of already did, but I don't want to cut you off if there's something you want share with me, share or something you wanna share with the people that see this. What does it mean? Whatever it is, I want you to have the last word, so I'm gonna leave it like that.

Interviewee: Well, I like good health. I’d like to leave a bright future on the ocean from generation to generation. I know that – which I learn, or maybe I'm not right, but regardless what money you have in the world, what luxury we have in the world, land and sea feeds us. Without food, we can't survive. I respect fishing and farming to the fullest. That's what I would like to see that our government, our folks, pay more attention to.

Interviewer: Those are solid words. Well, listen, Mr. Interviewee, I can't thank you enough. It's great to see you. Hopefully, I'll be down in the next couple of months, and we can sit down again.

Interviewee: That'll be fine. If you can't find me – I'm all over the place. Nicole is like my sister.

Interviewer: She got a GPS on you. She can find you.

Interviewee: She got my back, and I have my loving wife, Laurie – keep me in line.

Interviewer: Well, you got good people keeping you in line, then.

Interviewee: Wonderful.

Interviewer: Listen, thank you both for your time today. Nicole, you'll handle the administrative side of things with Gary for Mr. Interviewee with informed consent and compensation for his time and knowledge. Yes?

Interviewer: I'm going to have him sign it when I get off with you. I'm going to pull it up and then I'm going to show him how to do the screen signature. Gary said that's good, and I'll just send that off to Gary.

Interviewer: That's perfect. Well, thank you both.

Interviewee: You guys are talking French. I don't understand French.

Interviewer: I know. This is the other language. Mr. Interviewee, you have a great day.

Interviewee: You do the same too.

Interviewer: I can't wait to see you in person.

Interviewee: Don't go to sleep too soon.

Interviewer: Me?

Interviewee: And I promise I won’t.

Interviewer: I lost six people in the last two months. Three or four of them were my age. I can't figure out what in the world's happening. So, when you say don't go to sleep too soon, I'm afraid to shut my eyes.

Interviewee: You know what I tell my friends when they call me – we talk. I say, “Today's not a good day to die.”

Interviewer: No, sir. Alright then.

Interviewer: Have a great afternoon, Brent.

Interviewer: Respect. Alright now.

Interviewer: All right. Bye.

Interviewer: Wonderful.

------------------------------------END OF INTERVIEW------------------------------------