

**Interview with Linda McCann**

**Occupation: Sector Manager (Sector 7 & 8)**

**Port Community: New Bedford**

**Interviewer: Azure Cygler [AC]**

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2012**

**Catch Share Oral Histories Project – NOAA Fisheries**

**Logger/Transcriber: Matthew Schult**

**INDEX: [minutes:seconds]**

**Location : Northeast Fisheries Sector 7 & 8 building in New Bedford**

Interview

[00:00]

AC : Okay, for the record my name is Azure Cygler, and today is the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, 2012. I'm here at the Northeast Fisheries Sector 7 & 8 building in New Bedford, with Linda McCann. And Linda, if you could, for the record just state that you agreed to and signed the release form and we can conduct this interview?

LM : Okay, I'm Linda McCann and yes I have consented to this interview and I have signed all the forms.

AC : Okay, and your home address? You don't have to give a full address, but your, the city you live in?

LM : Wareham, Massachusetts.

AC : Wareham, Mass(achusetts), okay. And you said your husband is a fisherman?

LM : Yes.

AC : And his homeport is...?

LM : New Bedford.

AC : And his vessel's name?

LM : He's got three.

AC : Great.

LM : Um, *The Pilgrim*, *The Shamrock* and *The Bib*.

AC : Okay, and they're all offshore?

LM : Yes. Gillnetters.

AC : Okay, and is he in a sector or the commonpool?

LM : Yes, he's in Sector 7.

AC : Okay, and if you don't mind my asking how old you are?

LM : I am fifty-four.

AC : Good. Now to begin we just start off these interviews getting a little bit of sense about who you are and where you came from. If you could just tell me how you came to be here, your family structure, whether you have kids, those sorts of details? In whatever order you're comfortable.

LM : Okay, in whatever order, how did I get here, hmmm.

AC : Just tell me about you.

LM : Alright, well I've been married to my husband for sixteen years, but we've been together for nineteen. So he started me right off the bat about fishing and, I met him through a dating service, and I'm, what had intrigued me was, what the heck is a commercial fisherman? I was born in St. Louis, Missouri, I never saw the ocean until I was twelve.

AC : A world away.

LM : Oh yeah. So I'm thinking, "What the heck is a commercial fisherman? Is it somebody with a gold pole or something?" I didn't know what it was, so I'd never been around. And our first date was, his son took us to, they unloaded some dogfish, and I was in nice heels, because I had just gotten out of work. I worked for a retail company for many years, and I was like, oh, and it smelled, oh my. So that was my first taste of fishing and because it was my husband's business I got into it very quickly. I started doing settlements, keeping track of his Days at Sea, keeping track of how much fish he had left, I liked it. I enjoyed doing it. I still enjoy doing it.

I now have a daughter who is sixteen, and that was another opportunity, I was able to stay home with her when she was young, because I'm an old mom. I had here when I was thirty-eight, so I knew she was going to be my only one, so I thought, well, this is great, and I was lucky enough to stay home and pay

the bills for the business and keep the business running and still spend a lot of time with her. And how I got to this job many years later, because I kept track of him, and when the sectors were first developed three years ago, well, a little more than that, but they went into effect three years ago. I had applied for the job, went in front of a panel of five fishermen, and their owners, which I had never been in an interview like that, usually it's one-on-one. So I was a little taken back, but I told them exactly what I did. I leased Days, I would do the settlements, I kept track of the fish, I would be the perfect person for this job. And I also had a finance background.

So, I didn't get the job the first time. They hired another gentleman who was fluent in Portuguese, because most of my fishermen are Portuguese. But it turned out real quick that there was no language barrier. They would bring in a family member, the girls across the hall in the settlement house spoke, or speak Portuguese, so they, if they had to tell me something, they were able to get the message across. Or if I had to tell them, I could get them to understand. So I did just the finances at the beginning, because they said I didn't get the job, but we want to hire you for something different. So I thought, okay, this is good. So they knew me, and when the Sector Manager, it just didn't work out for him, it wasn't the job for him, left, they offered me the position. Which I was thrilled, because that was what I wanted to do in the first place. And the fishermen were very comfortable with me, they knew me, they trusted me, and I did a ton of things for them. I did their lease Days, I pre-tripped them, I took their VTRs (Vessel Trip Report), I, you know, I had a relationship with every one of them. So you know it made my job a little easier to kind of get in and fix the problems that had happened and move on. So, this is our first, second, this is my third year, and it's much better. I mean, I'm organized, they get what they need from me, and they walk away with a smile.

AC : And for the record could you say could you say exactly what your position is?

LM : I'm the Sector Manager for Sector 7 and Sector 8. Sector 7 consists of gillnetters, trawl guys, and Sector 8 is just trawl guys. I have, I'm not sure why they created two sectors, but it works. Sector 9 is also a New Bedford sector, which is, most of the members in their work for Carlos Raphael. So some of the, well, a lot of the gentlemen in my sector, they're not friendly with them. So they, instead of feuding, this would be better if we just created, you know, a different sector. And it's worked out for the members, they're happy. They can do their business, and they don't feel threatened.

AC : So geographically, the membership is New Bedford-based for 7& 8, just a gear-type difference mostly. Or, not really?

LM : Um, well, it's not really a gear-type, it's mostly consisting of trawl guys. I mean I do have a member in Point Judith, and I have a member in Montauk, New York, and I have a member in West Port. So, it's interesting. But they're all pretty much based right here in New Bedford, all of the guys. They're, Sector 7 is also basically families. They are brothers, cousins, sometimes I feel like I'm part of the family. They treat me like the family, but they help each other out. And Sector 8 is consisted of the owners, the fishermen and they are the ones that own most of the permits, and they're in this one sector. In Sector 7 I have one boat, one permit. Sector 8 I might have, I have quite a few boats, but they're owned by certain members. I actually really only have like five members in Sector 8, because they're the owners of more than one permit, okay?

AC : I see. And did you choose to kind of divvy them between 7 and 8?

LM : Nope, they were already done, they were already chosen for me. So I just kind of came in and took over. So I do have, um, Sector 7 I have nine vessels fishing and Sector 8 I have five vessels fishing, out of about twenty in each sector.

AC : Okay, now did you go to school for finance, or was that your original field?

LM : That was my original field, accounting.

AC : Fisheries sucked you in?

LM : No, I didn't even do any, yeah, that's funny. When I worked in retail, I was the Payroll Manager or the Account Payables Manager and the Receivable Manager. I worked for "Hit or Miss" for fifteen years.

AC : What, what was the business?

LM : "Hit or Miss".

AC : "Hit or Miss".

LM : A retail woman's business, okay?

AC : Oh, okay, cool. In Massachusetts?

LM : I worked in Stoughton, yeah. That was the home office. And I also paid, we had 500 stores across the country, so I had to manage their payrolls and make sure everybody got paid, and we had to pay for the fabric, and we had to pay to keep the bills, you know, the lights on, so I mean I had a big...that's my forte, is finance. So it helps me because I do all the finance here. I don't, we don't

outsource the payroll, I do the payroll myself, and I do the quarterlies, the taxes, and I do have an accountant for the Sector, but she takes care of the corporate end of it. But I keep all the information and just give it to her at the end of the year, which makes her job very easy. And the guys don't pay that \$5,000 a year; they're already paying me, they don't need to pay another person to do the...that's why they hired me, one of the reasons was like, "Oh, you do payroll? How much do you charge?"

It's like, "Well, you're already paying me, so, it take me two minutes to do this. This is kind of crazy that people are charging \$5,000 a year."

But, so I'm saving the fishermen, I'm trying to save my guys some money. If I can do it, I will do it. Anything I can do for these guys I do. I've, let's see, when they've sold their vessel, it goes into CPH. If they don't sell, usually they don't sell the permit, and CPH is, um, I forget the first part, it's, Permit History.

AC : "Permit History", yeah, I forgot what the "C" is too.

LM : Yeah, I forget too.

AC : "Commercial", maybe? No...

LM : Maybe, well, I'm, yeah, maybe, I don't know. Anyway, there is an application to do that, and some of these broker houses, "Oh, you know for \$400 I'll fill this out for you."

It was like, "I could do this myself, you know. All I need you to do is make sure you give me the purchase and sales and make sure in that agreement, it says clearly, that the permit is not going. That's all that NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration) requires, so if you give me all of that information, I can fill out the form, I'll have you sign it, and guess what? It's part of my salary so it's not going to cost you any more money."

AC : And is that something that's happening a lot since you've been in the position?

LM : Um, it's happened twice.

AC : Okay, so they're selling the vessel, but not, but they're keeping the permit.

LM : The other problem I have in New Bedford is the pension plan. A lot of these guys owe a lot of money. The problem is, I guess the federal government, because they're the corporation *and* the employee, they can't get out of it. Some of them owe...

AC : There's no write-offs, or ways of defer...okay. I got you.

LM : No, not dissolving it. No, they've had a lot of, yeah, they've had a lot of lawyers try to figure this out. When we had the..., when the stock market crashed, I'm not, when I look at this, some of these guys owe \$265,000, \$300,000, I'm thinking, your boat isn't even worth that. I mean, I don't understand, they have an agreement that the boat has to fish within a two-year period. They are obligated to pay, I think it's up to 2% of the gross sale when the boat is fishing, and then they have to make a quarterly payment if the boat isn't fishing. I'm not sure exactly...

AC : And that goes towards what they owe?

LM : Yeah. But they can't get out of it. And like I said, the funds, from me just going to one meeting and hearing what they have to say, we're definitely mismanaged, that's the bottom line. And a lot of these guys, well most of these guys are very trusting, so it's kind of heart-breaking. Because to get your pension and get, you know, \$500 a month and you owe \$265,000 it's like, I don't understand this, I'm not getting this. But, it's a problem, because they are tied to, they can't really sell their permit. Most guys or members wanting to buy a vessel want the permit; they don't want the vessel either, they want the permit. A lot of these guys aren't selling the permit because they really can't., which is an issue.

And most of my members are in their sixties, I have a few that, two that just turned sixty-five and are still on the water. I have..., one of my members, he's not fishing, he's seventy. And they should be thinking of retirement, and most of their, they've been on the water for over thirty years, and a lot of their crew, thirty, thirty-one years, I mean they've got deckhands that have been there forever. And they're just, they're up in age also, you know, we're not getting any new fishermen into the business anymore because the regulations are so incredibly ridiculous that who would want to get into the fishing industry? You know, we're not...it leads me to NOAA science, and we've been trying to break ground on this for many years, that their science is flawed. They know it, they've said it, but they're not doing anything about it. We do need some cooperative research together, you know, and I think you would have, I think the fishermen would be more trusting if they actually saw, okay, it is what it is. But don't tell me that you're sending out the Bigelow, who is using the wrong equipment, and tell me something is, oh, it's over-fished! And it's like, well, you're not using the right equipment, for one, to target what you're looking for.

AC : Right. Now is part of your role to help find research projects and pair them up with your guys?

LM : The Northeast Seafood Coalition does a lot of the policy, they do a lot of research and they try to write policy, they try to, "Okay, let's try this." They come up, they're trying to come up with different solutions. They need to open up some of these closed areas that have been closed for years, whether you need an Observer on board or you have it seasonal, or, you know, but give these guys an opportunity to fish someplace else. You know what they're doing, is they're saying "Okay you've got this closed area, this closed area and this closed area, and everybody goes to this one." Well of course it's going to be overfished because there's no place else to go. You get all these vessels in this one area because they can't go in the other areas. So it's like you've got to start opening up some of these areas that have been closed down for years; ten, fifteen years.

AC : Do you help, do you work with the Seafood Coalition pretty closely?

LM : Yes, we try to, they implement the policy, and sectors, we keep our members alert and you know, "Here's what, you know, they think, what would you, how would you feel about this?" We actually got through the Gulf of Maine for the cod closure, I should say the Coalition did this, they recommended to NOAA that the sector would have an agreement with their members, that if they went into a certain area, that's, you know, they would have to have an Observer. And if they didn't do something there would be penalties, fines, whatever, or, you know, it could shut the whole sector down, basically. And they actually let us, they agreed to let us do this, which was a good thing, it's a good move to say okay, we'll hold our members responsible, if you give us the chance, you know, to try this.

AC : Which was sort of the idea behind sectors is to be self-managed with the understanding that there's a management plan, an operations plan in place.

LM : Well we have an operations plan, and they do, the first year weeded out some of the, there was always, there's always a few that try to think that they can get away with, you know, they do stupid things, is what it is. Basically the first year that took care of it, because the sector had to deal with it. And if they were not following the rules, and everybody signed a contract, every member signs a contract and they get an operations plan, a membership plan to see what's going on. And in a sector - at least in my sectors I don't have that issue, thank goodness - I have a lot of guys that are helping out another guy, okay?

They're keeping, you know, we only, the sector has the fish and everybody has a little piece of the pie, it was, you know, their portion that is keeping a sector whole. And that means that if somebody needs something, they're going to help out their fellow sector member. They make deals, they make

agreements, it's like, whatever you have to do. If you go over your, if you exceed your harvest share, you're responsible for either finding it or paying somebody for it, you know, because now you're dipping into somebody else's share. And, it didn't happen, I've got to say, like I said these guys are very smart and they want everybody to stay fishing and they help each other out. I can say that with no problems for both of my sectors. There were other sectors that had issues, the issues were taken care of, the members were expelled.

AC : Is the family-type dynamic of your sectors a reason for that do you think, or just...

LM : Yeah, I think, I'm not sure if it's the family type or it's just, I mean it also brought together guys like my husband, the gillnetter, and the trawl guys. So the Portuguese guys that have been on the water for forty years, my husband's been on the water for thirty-eight years almost forty years too, you know they wouldn't - I know I shouldn't say this, but - you know they'd come to me and they'd say, "Linda, your husband has hake."

LM : I said, "Listen, I just sleep with him, he doesn't let me have his hake. Send him down to the dock to go and do this." And he, they would go down and my husband would call me and say,

"Linda", he says, "your boyfriends are here."

And I was like, "What are you talking about?"

And he says, "Your fishermen."

I says, "They're your fishermen too, they're in your sector. They want to, you know, they want..." What they did was they would go to him and say, "Okay, if I go over, can you cover me?" And what they, our plan was, and it still is in effect, is, if the fishermen had made an agreement with one of his other fishermen, one of his other members, was to give the guy whatever he got for it. If he went over 100 pounds and he got, you know, a dollar, he got, that person, the other member who gave him the 100 pounds got the dollar, or the \$100.

So it gives them an incentive not to do that, but it could happen. And it's better to have an agreement with somebody, knowing that, okay, I'm not going to be thrown to the wolves if I do something wrong, and it's worked. And they've made friends. I mean I've learned a whole new fishery, I mean all I knew was gillnetting, and now I'm understanding the trawl guys, what they do, their equipment, it's very interesting to me. And they explain it to me, so, um,

you know I don't, like I said I got a bunch of guys that are, they're like Dads to me, sometimes.

AC : Right. Seem to be all looking out for each other.

LM : They're all looking out for each other, you know? I mean I had the...

AC : And you're included in that, you're, the momma hen, maybe. (Laughs)

LM : Oh, I helped one of my, I was kind of upset with an observer company, not East-West...

AC : Oh good, (laughs) that's fine.

LM : But last year there was an Observer that got sick on the boat, they had gotten all the way out to Georges (Bank) and she was very sick so he turned around, called the Coast Guard and brought her all the way back, and it cost him \$3,000 for fuel because they hadn't started fishing yet. They took her off in Hyannis, and then the weather turned bad, so it wasn't like he could go right back out, he had to wait. So it turned out that nobody, all he asked for was just to have the fuel reimbursed, he didn't care. Well the observer company gave him a piece of paper and said, you know, write a letter to this person. Which at the time was Pat Kurkul, and I'm like, "Do you know who she is?"

And he's like, "What?!" you know, and he said "I'm a father, and you know, she was upset, I took her temperature, I mean I could just..." I said okay, we wrote a letter to the regional manager, and which I blasted the observer company because I said this should have never happened, period. You should do something. I know it's,

AC : Shouldn't go to that level, it should be, yeah...

LM : Yeah, there should be a policy in place, I mean it only happens, I think it's happened twice that some, an Observer was sick. And it's not really, they used to give them back their Days; well they don't use Days when they're on a sector trip, they don't need a Day at Sea, so you can't reimburse them a Day. And all they wanted was the fuel. And, because his crew wasn't going to make anything, he wasn't making anything, but he had to pay that bill. And they did the right thing, okay? The observer company finally paid him, which, it should've happened at the very beginning, it should've never been a letter or anything like that.

AC : Gentleman's agreement all done, yup.

LM : David Martin was very helpful with Peter and when Peter gets upset he starts talking really fast, and it's like...and Amy VanAtten, who was also a help, because she, she could see the boat it's, you know, with the black box you can see exactly where it's going and how it came back in. And I'm thinking, "Okay, we have all the, it's not like he..."

And you know he said to me, which was, he said "If I was on a vessel, or if my daughter was on a vessel, I would hope that someone would treat her just the same way as I treated this girl." It turned out she had a blood infection I guess, and he, if anything, he said to me, "How would I ever look at her parents if something ever happened to her or God forbid if she died?" I think the guy would have had a breakdown. But to show you, and then he tells you, and the next, you know, I train all these people. Sally, I don't know if you know Sally.

AC : From SMAST [School for Marine Science and Technology], yeah.

LM : Yes, he helped, he tells me that he got her the job because he says, "I..." you know, I guess she was an Observer a few times on his vessel, and he says, "I taught her everything she knows." I was like, okay, good, perfect.

AC : Let him run with it, that's perfect. He probably did teach her a good deal.

LM : I'm telling you, I've got some, none of my guys ever complained about an Observer. I mean I have, he did complain this past time, he had somebody on there that I guess she wasn't, I'm not sure what her issue was. But he said, when he came in, and I know when they're upset, they wear their hearts on their sleeves. "I will never have her on my vessel again, ever." And I told her, if she had a problem, she needed to talk to me, and she told me that she had a problem with, I guess, one of his deckhands, and he said "You come to me, you talk to me about this, you know. And he said "She was so rude, she talked to me so badly," and he says "Never." And I knew that something was wrong because like I said he's had numerous Observers, and I said, "We'll find out. We'll find out what the issue is, maybe she's just not ready for this, maybe just this isn't her job, her field." But I mean, I deal with things like this, it's like...

AC : So your job description is huge, it's not...

LM : I listen to everything. They, you know...

AC : It's problem-solver, therapist, manager, it's everything, it sounds like.

LM : Yup, I sat yesterday with a gentleman who went to Poland, one of my members, for a month. Two weeks was with his wife, and the other two weeks I guess he had like a spa thing, and I'm thinking, and he's sixty-four, and he sat

in this office for an hour to tell me all about it, and it's like, you know, it's so great. It's so great to have guys that just feel that comfortable that they can, and I enjoy hearing, I want them, you know, I have, I want them to go on vacation, because they fish in the wintertime and it's cold, it's rough and they go all the way out to Georges Bank, and it's just, you know, what do you say? But, I guess you could say, I mean I love my job, I love coming here every day whether I have to give them bad news or give them good news, at least I'll help as many guys as I possibly can. And that's how I feel, I work and I've told them, and I try to follow the same ethics as I work for you, you don't work for me. You're not going to come in my office and I'm not going to tell you what to do. You're going to come in and you're going to say, "I need this, I need this, and I need this" and I'm going to give it to you, that's why you pay me. Because I work for you, you don't work for me. I don't pay you, so that's how we figure this out."

And I do work for them, and I try, I try to go to meetings and I try to get on board with what's happening. I go to some of these meetings that I don't..., like the pension, when they had all the attorneys there. Just to see what was really going on because a lot of these guys can't explain it to me. But just a little bit of the finance and the government background, I'm thinking I know what the rules are, I'm not that great with investments, but I'm not totally clueless either. So I think that they're in a bad situation; it's getting worse. You know they're going to take away 70% next year, maybe close to 90%. How are these guys going to fish? Six stocks, that's a lot, and then, you know, they want the industry, which is the fishermen, to pay for at-sea monitoring, dockside monitoring. You know what? How are they going to do all that when they don't have enough fish to catch? Things are getting worse and worse, this \$100,000,000 relief thing, I was in a meeting the other night with John Bullard; I'm not sure what to make of him.

AC : He's brand-new.

LM : I think he is keeping, trying to keep the fishermen, like, voice your opinions and when you leave the room you'll feel better. But I'm not sure what he's going to do, he didn't really answer the questions that I asked. I didn't like the fact that one of the sector managers in the New Hampshire sector, Josh, he did a lot of research on the harbor porpoise and they wanted to close October/November, but it's actually more prevalent, or more catches or more takes are in February/March. Now they tend to lose close to \$10,000,000, these gillnetters, by closing down this area for two months in October and November. And he did a lot of research, he's also a scientist (laughs), and he used their data and Mr. Bullard's first assignment was to go back to the Coalition and say..., and I'm thinking, okay, that's, that goes with the 'No' in NOAA, that's perfect, that's what they've been saying for many years. And I

brought that up at the meeting, I said to him, I said “You know, I’m very disappointed, it didn’t take you very long to respond and the response was very negative. And I’m tending to think that you didn’t even look at it or didn’t even bother to ask somebody that, that was just your opinion.” He, his response was he was sad that I, or he felt bad that I didn’t feel good about this, so he, he looks at everything.

Well I do find that hard to believe. It didn’t make me feel any better. I do have four gillnetters in my sector, and my husband has two of them, but there’s still two other gentlemen that do this. And I don’t know, it’s getting to a point where everything is, every time that they stop, you know that they were told to stop fishing for this and maybe start this, well, then they, okay, and then they had no history on that anymore, because they moved to something else. I’m not sure how they’re, I don’t even know how they figured these quotas out, they said it was ten years. But the Cape Cod Hook Association, they were able to pick their ten years, these guys weren’t. And they, to me is, it’s a problem.

Because if you were broke down, or if, and like I said, a lot of them were told to, you know, lay off on the cod, try another fishery and my husband was one of them, so he started monkfishing, okay? So he would do monkfishing, well you know what? In those years you don’t get that cod anymore, you’re not getting that history. And that happened to a lot of these guys. They fished for something else, because they said, okay. These fishermen are your best conservationists out there, they know when they’re spawning, they know the climates have a big impact on the fishery, especially now. The codfish, you know, a lot of these guys aren’t catching cod right now, because the cod, they don’t swim in warm waters, they’re moving to where it’s colder. But these guys know all these things, the moon has, you know, some different things on them, um, or different...

AC : You see enough cycles through their thirty-plus years, you start to...

LM : Exactly, you know, but it might not be here now, but they’re going to show up maybe next year. They didn’t have a cold winter last year, the harbor never froze.

AC : Right. It was..., it was the non-winter.

LM : It was really a very calm winter, I’m not, I’m hoping it’ll be like that this winter, but I’m not banking on it. But, yeah, so the water never really cooled down. And that’s a problem because a lot of these guys, you know, that fish for certain things at certain times of the year, like the flounders. They were catching flounders in April, and they should’ve been catching the winter

flounders at the end of November. That was the end of it, okay, but they were still catching. So something right there is telling you, something's up here.

AC : Which relates to world, you know, dynamics changing in the world's environment as well, I'm sure, and they recognize that, no doubt.

LM : Yeah, but they won't say that, so go ahead.

AC : That's okay, no, this is all good, this is exactly what we're here for. Um, if you could just tell me a little more about your husband's involvement in fisheries, when he started and where he fishes, and how that's maybe changed over time?

LM : Yes, he started back in, gosh, probably in the early (19)'80s, okay, before I met him. And he fished up in the Gulf of Maine, when I met him he was fishing down in North Carolina for the winter, and then in the summer he was fishing the southern New England area.

AC : He had his own boat at that point?

LM : He had, yes, he had one or two, a smaller one, and then *The Pilgrim*. Well his sons, he has three sons that work for him, pardon me. One of his, well yeah they're old now; they're forty, thirty-nine and thirty-two. Well, his one son, Bill Jr., works, his boat is *The Pilgrim*, right now it's fishing up in the Gulf of Maine and he runs that boat with his brother John and a couple of deckhands. And his other son right now, we have *The Shamrock* hauled out, it's being repaired. But he, my husband and his son and two deckhands, usually run that boat.

AC : Okay, inshore, offshore?

LM : They're both.

AC : Both?

LM : Yes.

AC : Depending on the year, the season, or...

LM : It depends on the season. They don't go down to North Carolina anymore, thank goodness, because they would be gone for three weeks at a time. They used to fish for monkfish down there, but, it just, it's too long, you know, now that he's older it's like it's such a long drive, and to get the boat down there is one thing, but then you have to get a vehicle down there and, so it's just, it makes more sense to, we stay right around here. And, when the winters have

been okay, they've been able..., *The Shamrock* is larger than *The Pilgrim*. *The Pilgrim* is forty-eight foot, and *The Shamrock* is seventy-two foot. So that one takes the weather a little better, so in the wintertime, they usually, his sons all work on, they all work together. So it's...

AC : What does your daughter think of all that? (Laughs) She says, "Get fisheries out of my face, please."

LM : Yeah, we took her once, we just went outside of the harbor, he wanted to try out tub trawling, and she was like, "Okay." And of course it has to be a flat calm day, because I said, "Listen, I am not going to take her out there when it's, I don't want her to be sick. I don't want her to do this, like I don't want her to be a fisherman." I think what turned her off was when she said she had to go to the bathroom and they brought the bucket up with the toilet seat, I think that was like, "Hold up a second."

AC : That sealed the deal for her.

LM : Yeah, I think so. "I'll hold it." And like I said, that was a calm day. I don't think I, I think I would worry too much. I mean, I used to worry about Bill. Not anymore. I mean obviously he's a smarter man, he's an older man, he doesn't want to fish when it's rough out. He watches the weather. Some things, he doesn't like to tell me a lot of things, though he has to sometimes.

And a good example was this past April when he blew a plank on the boat, so it was taking on water, it was ten o'clock on a Saturday morning, and he called me to have me call the Coast Guard, because they weren't responding to the EPIRB (Emergency Position-Indicating Radio Beacons) and they weren't responding to his maydays. And he has an InmarSat phone, so that means you call and you can get a hold of him, there is no satellite anymore. That was just not a good phone to have on the boat when you're out 100 miles. So, I asked very kindly and nicely, I called Woods Hole, and said, "Please let me know if, which Coast Guard place is going to, you know, pick him up, New Jersey or New York, and I'm going to wait on the phone, while you call. Why aren't you responding to his call?" There was a fishing vessel that had responded to his mayday, was right there, in case they had to go into the water he was going to pick him up. The fishing vessel *Booker*, was his, uh, *Booker*, a fisherman always comes to the aid. I am sorry to say this, but I was disappointed in the Coast Guard. They dropped three pumps on the boat, one worked, okay? They tried to escort him into Montauk, and he kept saying he drew too much water, it would be too shallow. Luckily the water had calmed down a little bit, so he was, they were able to, "Oh, you're right Captain, okay, let's go back to New Bedford.", where he wanted to go in the first place. At this point my son, with *The Pilgrim* was there too so the *Booker* was able to leave. And, you know, I

just, I'm not sure. I was disappointed in the Coast Guard, and they did, you know, you can Google it, "Coast Guard rescues *The Shamrock*", you can see *The Shamrock* going down in the waves. And how the Coast Guard rescued *The Shamrock*, they don't tell you about the two pumps that didn't work, that they dropped on the boat. They don't tell you that the wife had to call.

This is, I had a thing happen with one of my other vessels, the *San Marcos* was out there, his shaft broke and he called, and it's like, "Yup, we'll be there." Well, they waited five hours, called again they're saying, "Oh, we're not going to go there." One of the other fishing vessels, *The San Paolo*, towed him in from Georges. I understand that they don't, well, I don't understand, I don't understand. Do they pick and choose? Like I said, it wasn't in the middle of the night, it was ten o'clock in the morning on a Saturday, I mean it was like, I don't understand. I mean I had them, I haven't had good experiences with the Coast Guard, when I was..., back in (19)'96, one of my, *Pilgrim* was towing one of my vessels from North Carolina, and he had the..., everybody was on *The Pilgrim*. At the time, they had those kind of phones that were a bag phone, so there was no such thing as a cell phone, or InmarSat or whatever. I had just had my daughter, so I was tired, and they called...

(BREAK; 39:33)

And called the, or they called me, okay? Because that was the emergency number, they wanted to know, because I guess they had nets on the boat, it had shifted and it started taking on water, and before they realized it, it was underwater. So they wanted *me* to tell *them* what the guys were wearing, how many guys were on the boat, and I had no idea. I'm thinking "Oh my," and they were calling and calling, I had New York calling me, New Jersey calling me, Massachusetts calling me, and I'm thinking, "Okay, at eight o'clock I said to them, 'Listen, I've got a brand-new baby and I don't, you're going to have to call me in the morning, because I, there's nothing I can do. I don't know what to do, I don't know what to say, you know, I can't get a hold of them.' ". So the next morning at six a.m., they called, and a little snot-nosed little kid, if you excuse my language, "If I have to be up, you have to be up."

And I said, "Okay, I need to know your name and your badge number, and let me tell you something, young man," I said, "I've been up. I get up every two hours, I got a brand new baby and I have to worry about my husband could be dead and I have no clue, I don't know anything."

AC : "...it's your guys' job to be looking out for their welfare." I'm, wow, that's pretty wild.

LM : So that was not a very good situation, my, like I said, not all the Coast Guards are like that. And some guys are rescued and helped, and I'm sure this is an isolated incident, I don't know. A couple of isolated incidents, I don't know. I hope that that's not the case that they pick and choose, but, I'm not sure.

AC : Well now tell me a little bit about that dynamic between a husband and wife when you're both working in the same field, essentially, how does that affect your relationship?

LM : I hear...well, it's like I said, we've been doing this for such a long time, and I trust him, he trusts me. I do, he, you know it's like, listen, whether it's bad news or good news, you're going to have to tell me. Because I'm going to find out, so it would be better if it came from you. If you just come out and tell me that, oh, you know, and usually he waits until he gets home, like "Oh, I broke down, or I blew a pump, or I did this." It's like, but I can, I hear it in his voice, he does call every night when he's out fishing, and I can tell if he's been sick because even being on the water for thirty-eight years he still gets sea sick sometimes, not all the time, but once in a while. I can tell when he just woke up, or if he sounds tired, and I'll say all these things, it's kind of bizarre, but I know him that well, I can always tell when something's bothering him. But we've learned to, I don't yell at him anymore, I used to, I don't anymore, it's like okay, I have to take charge and figure out what our next move will be. Whether, you know, if it's, it's like when he called me that morning, it's like, okay, what was I going to do, scream and like, "Are you okay? Is everybody, oh my God, is the boat under water?" I wanted to say all that, but my daughter is in the other room and I'm like, "I've got to stay calm, stay focused and figure out how I'm going to get these, the Coast Guard, what's going on? Why aren't they responding?" I needed to know that. And I was like, "Okay, I'm going to call them and don't worry."

AC : Got it handled.

LM : So I try to make sure, like I say we've been married and been together for such a long time, even though it's bad news sometimes, I try to make sure that I don't go off the handle, because I don't want him to worry about something else, or feel bad. It's like, I'll deal with you, I'll kill you when you get home, (laughs) but just get home, so I can do that. But I don't tell him that on the phone. So yeah, I mean, we've learned, even when I lost a Captain last year, and he, he was out there when he heard the call. He said to me, I'd come in to work, and he says, he goes, "Don't you have the *Virginia Sands* in your sector?"

And I said, "Yes," I said, "Sector 8."

And he says "I think there's something wrong with the Captain."

And I'm like, "Oh, what do you mean?"

He says, "They airlifted him off the vessel, he got hurt."

I'm like, "Oh my God." So when I talk to the owner, the girl upstairs in the union, which was kind of weird, or she does the lumpers and things like that anymore, it's a different place now, but, she said, "Oh, he died."

I'm like, "He what?" I guess he had a massive heart attack on the vessel, and the crew were trying to revive him. It was tough, because he was also related to all my guys, so he had four vessels come back in immediately. It was probably one of the worst experiences I, you know, I mean obviously death for anybody is hard, but it was so hard for me because these guys, and I said to them, "Alright, there's no hugging the Sector Manager, none of that." But you could see, it was just, it was heart-breaking.

Then they learned that he was going to be cremated, so they had to wait a week, and they're like, "Linda, we need to get back out there, but you have to give the government forty-eight hours notice"

And I have..., I called and asked, "I need to get these gentlemen out there and I want them all waived." Let them deal with their crews, let them deal with the, you know, just the sorrow and getting back to normal, and just a little camaraderie there. And that was granted, I was able to get them out there without observers, let them fish, let them kind of re-group a little bit, then when they got back... But it was very hard, and this gentleman was sixty-two, and he was tough, oh my God, he...

AC : I remember that boat, I remember...

LM : Tony Mocco, yeah, he was, he would come in, and he would say to me, he was always so gruff, really, always, okay? I'd sit down, he'd bring me his VTR in, "I need to know how much fish I have left."

I'm like, "Okay, you need to give me until one o'clock and I'll have the information." Well you know, he'd leave something off his VTR, you know, skate wings or monkfish, it's like well when you have 2,600 pounds of skate wings I think they're going to notice that, that you left that off, or lobster. So then it became a game, I said, "Everything's on there."

He says, "You're sure?"

“Yup” so I said, I looked at him one day, I said, “Tony, do you have a cold sore?”

And he’s like says, “No, why?”

I says, “You just smiled”. He’d never smiled before at me, ever, and he’s like, so he was just getting into, I think he was trusting..., the other Sector Manager, they didn’t have that trust. And he was just, okay, I’m, she’s going to give me everything, and she does give me everything I need. He was starting to feel a little more comfortable, and like I said, I think I was his challenge. He was going to make sure that everything was on that VTR and he always left something off. Maybe he did it on purpose, I don’t know, not, I don’t think so though, intentionally. But, it was just, it was sad for me too, because I’m like, sixty-two, you know, way too young. I mean this guy was going to retire, he lost his son, nine months before this had happened, at St. Luke’s, he was in there for a, I believe a liver transplant or something. And he had gotten up and fell in the bathroom, he was there for two hours and the mother had kept calling his cell phone, I guess, and finally called the front desk, who was right outside his room, across from his room, I guess, and it turned out that no one had checked on him. So when they went in, she’s still on the phone and they’re coding blue, and nobody went back to the phone to even hang it up, or say, you know, “We’ll call you back.” So she lost her son just six months before, or nine months before that. So that was a tough thing too, because when he’d come in the office, because I thought he went back to work too soon. You know, you can tell, and I’m just thinking, you know, I know that’s probably why he was so angry, and why he was so abrupt with me all the time. And I just, you know, what do you say? I said I was sorry, I felt bad, sorry for his loss, not that I was expecting him to be nice to me, it didn’t matter. But he was just, I think he went back too soon. I don’t think he had time to grieve, but that was just, like I said that was a tough experience.

But my husband was the one that told me about this. And I’m thinking, oh my God. But they all heard it on the radios. But then he goes, “I couldn’t understand, because I guess some of them they were talking Port....they had another vessel, *The San Paolo* was translating to the Coast Guard what was going on. It was like, I had another guy that was air-lifted off just this past, on *The Hustler*, the guy had broken some ribs I guess, or no, sorry, he had a heart attack, he didn’t break any ribs, or a mild one. But, older, they’re all older.

AC : Yeah, they shouldn’t be out there, they need to take a break, yeah, they need to just...

LM : I got the oldest guys in the fleet. Like I said there’s no up-and-coming guys that are getting into it. And you hope that these, even though Stanley who was in

here yesterday telling me all about his vacation to Poland, he says, "I love to fish Linda. My wife, my daughter, you know, 'Dad, I guess if you stop fishing you're going to die because you'll be sitting in front of the TV and doing nothing.' ". And a lot of these guys, that's what they've done all their lives, they go fishing. The wives take care of everything, the kids, the bills, and they come back and just give them money.

AC : Is that the same for you?

LM : Pretty much, yes.

AC : You were the one who rules at home...

LM : I'm the single parent, I just took my daughter for her permit, so I'll be doing the driving.

AC : She's on the loose.

LM : I know. But yeah, I mean, I do, I pay the bills, I take care of everything, I take care of the household, and then I take care of all my fishermen.

AC : Yeah, for you at home, were you always the one because he would fish?

LM : He would fish, I always did everything.

AC : You did everything.

LM : I did everything. That's probably why I didn't have a second child, I couldn't do that twenty-four seven; that was tough, it was not easy. I mean luckily she was a good baby, but still, it was, you know, you go, some of the, I would go forty-eight hours without any sleep because she was teething, you'd be dead tired, it wasn't easy. But it still, it never really bothered me, I mean, you know, I used to worry like I said, not any more. I trust him, I trust that he's, he'll make the right decision, he's a smart man and he's honest. He's a great guy, and I can't say a bad thing about him, you know, he's I think we kind of, I'm very aggressive, he's not. I'm kind of outspoken, he's not.

AC : You balance each other.

LM : Yeah, we do balance each other out. And like I said, he is for helping, or working with the fishermen, policies, I mean, they're all, I mean he took, this was, they did some monkfish tagging, and this was before the monkfish, I think it was Amendment 6 that went through where they could do their monk overage and the clock would catch up to it, instead of waiting outside, or you

know, waiting for the three-day limit or whatever. And the best example was Christa Bank from GMRI (Gulf of Maine Research Institute), she was pregnant.

AC : Oh she's SMAST, doesn't Christa work at SMAST?

LM : Nope, she's GMRI.

AC : Oh, okay.

LM : And she was, she had morning sickness, and it was rough, and that was, they had to sit outside and wait, because they hadn't, they hadn't passed that yet. So she said, she was so thrilled and, you know, they did a lot of, Bill does do a lot of research, willing to take anything, anything to help prove that things could be good, we can work together. That's what I'm, I wish that NOAA would be a little more, you know, SMAST, GMRI, these people or universities, they do a lot of studies, and they do, but NOAA does not welcome the results, because the results aren't what they are saying, have been saying all along, that the fishermen overfished it, or you know, it really kind of makes me sad that that's probably why there's no trust there.

They do a lot of research, you know, I think that they should be heard. And they have the observer data, you know, they, I don't know, I really don't know why, I mean, is it because they've been saying "No" all these years? And now all of a sudden we're calling them out? You know, what's...why? I mean you know what? Okay, they know that in the past, that NOAA's research and NOAA's, whatever you want to call it, is wrong. The science is wrong, the models are wrong. They know it, they've admitted it now, it's like okay great, now let's change it, you know, let's get away from that. You know, if they think that because they say their wrong that everyone's going to turn around and say, "Shame on you." I'm not sure exactly how they want to do this. But just like, move on, okay? We know it's wrong, now let's fix it. That's what you want to do, you want to fix the problem. The fishermen don't want a handout. They want a hand up. They like being on the water, they like fishing, no they don't want to see the stocks be depleted, because that's their livelihood. A lot of these guys they have, you know, kids in college, they have house payments still, they have this pension thing that they have to worry about, to pay for. They're not looking to get out of the business, they just want you to fix it; it's not fixed. And until something like that happens, I don't know, what can you say, it's sad.

(BREAK 55:17)

AC : If you could tell me a little bit about the crew. I know for your husband's boat that he's on, he has his son, and two other crew, or one?

LM : Two. He usually goes four-handed.

AC : Two, okay, and has that always been the case?

LM : That's always pretty much been the case.

AC : Same guys over time, or does that change?

LM : His sons have worked for him, yes, it's pretty much the same guys. His sons have worked for him, let's see, Bill Jr., has been there almost twenty years, and his other sons, his son Dan who is thirty-two, he's been going fishing with him since he was fourteen. He also went to Unity College to become a Park Ranger because he doesn't want to stay in the fishing business. But the problem is, you can't get a Park Ranger job unless somebody dies. They just don't hire, the government isn't, they don't have the funds. He loves that type of work, he also probably would make one of my better Captains, but he doesn't want the responsibility, which you can't blame him, there's a lot of responsibility to being a Captain. My trawl guys, a lot of them are four or five-handed. I do have one guy that goes two-handed, him and another guy. It's a very small boat, it's out of Nantucket, he's wonderful man, *The Ruthie B* is his vessel's name. Honest as the day comes, he, I guess is a preacher on the weekends, (laughs).

AC : (Laughs) My goodness I must talk to this man.

LM : And he is, let me tell you, his VTRs, entering a, he, he like peddles around town, he's got like three or four different dealers that buy, his fish buyers, but he is, he's a nice man, he works hard, doesn't have a lot of money. A lot of these guys don't have a lot of money, there're not rich. You know, they're not, your scallopers, they make a lot of money. Their deckhands make a lot of money.

AC : Mm-hmm. And was it mostly that the scallop crew kind of tend to stick with scallop boats, are you getting, okay, so it's very separate world.

LM : And it's very hard for a groundfish guy to get onto a scalloper. And you know it's kind of sad because some of these guys they wave that money in front of their faces. They do it sometimes one of the guys that used to work for me went to scalloping. It's a hard life, you know, you're out there for fourteen days, and you're not getting much sleep. You know, maybe four hours a day and then never-ending, so it does a number on your hands from the shucking, and, it takes a toll on your body. It's not as easy as some of the other fisheries, but you know, I feel bad sometimes when my son says to me, "That guy made

\$16,000, or \$48,000.” It’s like, okay, you know, but you know what, he can’t put food on your table so why do you care? It’s up to you, you know, what difference does it make..., somebody else...the grass isn’t always greener on the other side. I said there’s..., you’ve got to worry about yourself, and you know, you can’t let that get you down.” They are going to be affected next year by some of the rules that are coming down, they are going to lose, you know, scallops. They’re, you know, it’s going to be bad for everybody. It’s not just going to be the groundfish guys, the scallopers are going to get hurt.

Everybody’s getting hurt in this disaster, that’s exactly what it is, it’s a fishing disaster. I don’t know how it got to this point, but it’s becoming, you know, what do you do? I mean even if you tie your boat up and lease your quota out, you’re not going to make a lot of money. A lot of these guys don’t make a lot of money leasing their quotas out. I do have a few scallopers in my sector that have a groundfish quota, now it’s two separate fisheries so they can’t, you know, use it on their scallop, when they scallop, but they can lease it out. And they don’t make, right now, this year members are putting up their entire allocations, and nobody is bidding. They want..., if they’re going for certain species that’s what they want. They don’t want to buy the whole allocation, they don’t need the whole allocation, they just need a couple of things. And the members are saying, nope, not going to let it go unless you buy the whole thing. So they’re not selling and these guys aren’t buying.

AC : A stalemate, kind of thing. Now is leasing a big part of what your guys do regularly?

LM : I have a few guys that lease their entire quotas. Not very many. I try to, well, they don’t fish, or they’ll fish, they’re scallopers or they just don’t fish.

AC : And you take care of that transaction?

LM : I do the leasing also, the transactions also, yup.

AC : And it’s different people that are leasing each time?

LM : It’s usually the same people that lease every year, because as of May 1<sup>st</sup> you get a new allocation. It’s never, it doesn’t stay the same every year.

AC : To the same people? When they lease, to the same people?

LM : To the same people, they might get less quota or more, you know, a little bit more, but it’s, the whole, yes it’s the same group of fishermen.

AC : Okay, but does John always lease to Bill, or Bill always lease to John, it just depends on...?

LM : Well we do have some that have contracts, which will, you know some of them made a contract, like a three-year contract, "I'll buy your fish for three years for this amount of money." I don't care about the money because I'm not seeing it, it stays in the sector, if it goes outside of the sector then I have to know in order to report it to the government. Within the sector, they, I...last year I tried for my gentlemen that were, my members that were fishing in both sectors I tried to do some trading back and forth. So they're not purchasing any quota, but they're getting the quota, and it's, it's better for them, because they don't take it off their settlements. I know what everybody has, I have guys in Sector 7 that fish for southern New England yellowtail and never go to Georges Bank. And I've got guys in Sector 8 that go to Georges Bank, but they never go to southern New England. So it's like, how about you trade this for this? And it worked. I also introduce them to each other, like, "Talk to this guy, let's work this out." I have done that with a few other sectors, also. I want, I would rather see them trade than buy, or sell. Because like I said it's to their benefit, their crews' benefit. On their settlements they take off for lease Days, they deduct for quota that they have to lease. It's kind of crazy if you think about it, you have to buy fish to go fishing? I don't get that, but they do. So if you can trade it, I'm making a deal as we speak, I've, to Sector 5, I said I need gray sole, I need 3,000 pounds of gray sole, and my member is willing to trade 3,000 of southern New England yellowtail. I had three calls in a matter of fifteen minutes. A couple other the fishermen, because every sector you're supposed to let your members know what's out there. If someone has something up for lease or they're trading or whatever, and he said, "I only have 1,000 pounds."

I said "Okay, I'll trade you 1,000 for 1,000."

And the other sector Manager said, "Linda if I can get some of my other sector members to come up with the other 2,000 will you..."

I said, "Absolutely." I want to see these guys trade, I would love that if they all traded, because it helps them.

AC : Flexibility, and...

LM : And they get the revenues, so it's more gross, it goes towards their gross sales. Why deduct it from your member, or from your deckhand, or your, you know, even the captains when you can get it almost like it's, "Okay, I already had this, so it's part of my fishing thing." I worked really hard to do this, I don't..., I still have to deal with the gentlemen that want to sell theirs, or lease theirs. I

shouldn't say sell, lease. And I do the same thing. I send it out to, you know, all the sectors, and you know, we've done some creative things, you know, if you buy it all I'll give you 10% off, or I have one gentleman that split it into thirds because people don't need all of that, maybe they'll..., we can just do this, it's not moving, but...

AC : So it's a whole dynamics that you can adjust...

LM : I've tried to work out different things for different guys. They seem to work with me, they seem to trust me when I suggest something. When I, I mean then I do face opposition when I say, "Eh, you know, this is, you priced that too high."

"I don't care, put it out there."

I'll say, "Yeah, that's fine, I'm just letting you know that, it is a little high, and you might want to rethink it. I will put it out there for what you're asking, and if you don't get any hits then you might want to rethink it, and I will help you, we'll decide on a different price, or, you know. But, you're certainly entitled, I can't tell you, I'm just giving you my opinion, I can't tell you what to do, I work for you. But when it doesn't sell and you're upset, don't be upset with me because I tried to tell you, but you wouldn't listen."

AC : Now Linda tell me a little bit about your, you and your husband's sort of personal, social networks. Do you find that you spend your time outside of work with other fishermen and their families, or do you think some of your friend bases are mostly made up of people outside of fisheries? When you're out, leave work, you leave work, tell me about that.

LM : We don't really go, we actually spend it together. Our biggest past-time is Foxwoods.

AC : Beautiful.

LM : We go there and it's like, "Good luck!" he goes to the craps table, I go to the cards table, okay? So we don't even stay together over there, at the Foxwoods. It is kind of funny. But we do any fishing, the Coalition has a banquet every year that we go to, it's a fundraiser, I sell tickets, and we go to that. We did attend, Richie from Whaling City [Auction] had an annual cook-out that he invites people that work for him, we rent a door from him when we unload, because I have a door that I unload fishermen. So, and then, you know, yeah sometimes it's fishing, but most of the time it's just him and I. Now that my daughter's getting older, I told him, I says, "You're going to have

to quit when she goes to college because I can't do the empty-nest thing, I'll be so by myself." She's a junior in high school, so, you know, senior and then off to college. Unless I'll have to go myself, hopefully they have a parent place, when I come, you know, the dorms.

AC : Yeah, like the in-law suite, they have a parent-dorm suite.

LM : Yeah, we could just even be room-mates, it's okay with me. But him and I, we just enjoy spending each other's time together. I do occasionally go for the boat ride, we go for fuel and ice, you know, I go across the harbor. We have the boats in Fair Haven at Cap'n Leroy's, right by the bridge, and we run over and get ice. So it's a kind of, you know, I'll never get him on a cruise, he's already told me "I'm not going to do that. But who would want to go on a cruise when you've been on a fishing boat all the time?" So I'll never go on a cruise, but that's okay. So I cruise across the harbor, that's good enough for me.

AC : And has that always been how you guys interact or have sectors changed this?

LM : I go down to the boat, in fact I can't swim, so I don't jump onto vessels either. He'll start it up and he'll move it as close to the dock as he possibly can so I can just step on. Or he'll take me down when it's high tide so that I do just step on. They do a lot of things for me (laughs) but yeah, you know, I'll go down to the boat. We'll have lunch every day when he's in, especially now that he's just over the bridge. We spend a lot of time together when he's home, like I said, whether it's just sitting and watching television, he likes to play games. We'll play Monopoly, Yahtze, backgammon, he's a game player, I like playing games and I enjoy that. I enjoy staying in and cooking, we don't do, well once in a while we go out to eat, but it's like, you know what? I would really rather just stay home and make something. And sometimes he thinks, "Oh you want me to take you out?" But I've already planned something, I'm all set. I like being around him, I enjoy his company, we're friends, we're good friends, we're best friends.

So it's just a nice kind of (sighs), we talk about the business a lot, we talk about our finances a lot, as far as the business goes. Our personal finances are okay, sometimes the, you know, that saying, you know, "Boat stands for 'Bring On Another Thousand' ", anytime something happens on those boats it never costs \$100, it's always over \$1,000. It's like, oh my God, and they're always breaking down, you know? You have, right now I'm praying that my *Pilgrim* has, we're pretty much thinking it's a blown head gasket and we need to get it fixed by, we're kind of nursing it a little bit to see if we can get a couple more trips out of it, because my *Shamrock* will be out of the water for a couple of weeks being repaired.

AC : So she can't keep, keep up the income, sustained income that...

LM : Right, and so I have one boat fishing, and the revenue for three, okay? It's because I still have to pay the dockage for all three vessels, I still am paying insurance for all three vessels and I have one vessel working. So it's kind of, um, it's monotony, I, you know, it's kind of crazy, because I get worried.

AC : And you manage all those, the books for your personal business, okay.

LM : I manage all the books, and we have another company that..., we sell our monkfish to Korea, and we also unload, like I said we have a door here in New Bedford that we rent to unload boats, we buy their monkfish and we sell it overseas. Well monkfish right now, they're not landing any, so, and if they do we're cutting them into tails because the Korean buyers over in Korea, their freezers are full right now. So it's not, it'll change, but, and the fish haven't shown up yet, really. It's not cold enough just yet. So that kind of goes, it's kind of seasonal.

AC : What are the species that the boats fish for? I know it changes, but what are, give me the full list.

LM : We have the groundfish, that, you know, your regular cod, pollock, haddock. And then these guys, and it's usually to offset another bill, maybe an ice bill or a grub bill or something. They'll fish for monkfish, they'll bring in skate wings, they'll bring in lobsters. All these species that they kind of, dogfish, that they kind of tack on, and it usually, my groundfish guys? Their mainstay is groundfish; however, they bring in monk tails, skate wings, lobsters, and it does help offset something, you know even if it's toward their fuel bill. I mean their fuel bills are unbelievable. Sometimes I think the regulations won't put them out of business, the fuel prices will. And if they keep going up any further, I mean I had a guy bring in his fuel bill, \$45,000! And I'm thinking, "Hmmmph!" And you know, his stock...

AC : For one trip?

LM : For one trip because he was out there for ten days, and...

AC : That's unbelievable.

LM : And then his stock was \$47,000, so, he had \$2,000 to work with? And he had to divvy up, and if they bought quota, okay? You're saying this is a brokered trip, this is not unrealistic, this is what happens. Like I said, these guys are not wealthy by any means. They have bills to pay, they have quotas to pay, but

they have dedicated crews, because these guys have been with..., it is a close bond. That's what I love about these guys, I do, I love them to death. They are very loyal to the men that work for them, and they have no problem telling me that the reason they have this quota is because of those deckhands. It's because of their crews. I hope if they do this \$100,000,000 disaster relief thing that it does trickle down to the crews, the deckhands on board, they deserve just as much if not, you know, more than the owners. And a lot of these guys are owner-operators. And they do attribute their crew to their success, because if they didn't have a crew they wouldn't be successful.

AC : Now have sectors influenced that relationship between the captains and crews, has that tightened things, or...?

LM : I am sure it probably has put a stress on them, because they have to, you know, what do you say to your deckhand when you hand them a settlement and it says, "Well, I used to make half, now I'm making a third of what I used to make." Because like I said they're taking off for the quota that they lease, if they lease Days. Now that has gotten to be much better, the Gloucester Preservation Fund, they have a lot of permits with a lot of Days at Sea, and if these sector vessels decide, when they bring in the monkfish and the skate wings, they have to use an A Day, okay? I would like to see that go away, but it hasn't. So, they're only given so many Days, every permit gets so many Days a year, so they end up leasing Days so they can be able to bring in that. This year the Days at Sea are going for \$8 a Day, which is great. In years past, in fact the first year, some of these guys were paying \$1,000 a Day so they could bring in monkfish, because they need an A Day for monk day. Last year it was \$20 a Day, and this year it's down to \$8 a Day. So I have leased a lot of Days for my guys, because, and I tell them, and last year I said to them, I said, "If somebody said to you \$100 a Day, say, 'Thanks but no thanks, I'm going to go see my Sector Manager.'" I said to them, "Do not buy anything, talk to me first, I will find the cheapest way to get you, you know, lease Days."

And for the gentlemen that lease out their permits, they do have the option of leasing out their Days, and I..., last year was \$20, this year was \$8, so if they want to lease their Days, I'm going to say, "You know what? You've got to lease them for \$8, sorry." You shouldn't be making money on lease Days, I don't think so. This is why I want them to do away with it. I would like them to be able to get, they have a limit for monkfish, they have a limit for skate wings, they have a limit on the tails, so why not be able, if you're on a sector trip, be able to bring in...they're able to bring in 500 pounds of, it's the skates I believe, per trip. Not per day, per trip. The monkfish is 300 pounds per day. If they're allowed, if they use an A Day they can bring in the limit. If they're up north, I think it's 1,800 pounds, down in south here I think it's 1,200. But I'd like to see them change that, I don't know if they will or not. But in the meantime they're

not paying \$1,000,000 for Days at Sea, and it's good for them. So, I try to see and I try to help them, I tell them, you know, "If you need something, or, you know, come and see me because I will, I'll find it. Whatever you need I'm going to find it."

AC : Well you certainly take on the role whole-heartedly. So that's apparent.

LM : I do. I make sure that, I have guys that come in, they say, "Okay, I need this, I need winter flounder, I need gray sole, and it's like I need hake." And it's like some of these species are "choke" species and everybody's looking for them. I put my feelers out there, I talk to people, I'm, I have a, I believe I have a good rapport with most sector managers. I try to, we'll deal, let's do this together, or can you see if your member will do this, or... And I've had some of their members, it's kind of funny, last year I had gotten 20,000 pounds of southern New England yellowtail for one of my members. And he came in the next day and he said, "Okay Linda I need 10,000."

I says "10,000 more?!"

"For my friend."

I said "Who is your friend?"

"Oh he's in Sector 13."

I was like, "Well, he's going to talk to his Sector Manager, I don't get fish for friends, I don't do that, he's not in our sector!"

"But you got it fast"

And I said, "Well, you know, I'm sure if John had the opportunity he'd get it fast too." So some of these guys think I can make, I can do miracles. I can't always, sometimes I do try my hardest.

AC : There's reality behind what you can do.

LM : Uh-huh. Some people won't give it up, some people won't trade with certain people. Oh yes. What my other buddy over here, the 'Cod-Father'...sector, and you know, Sector 9, I got to say, his daughter is the Sector Manager, and she is very good. She's very smart, she helps her members, her and I work together a little bit, you know, we throw things off each other, we help each other with our reports to the government, or just certain things we have to do. Libby, I think you know Libby?

AC : Mm-hmm.

LM : She is the, I guess the Program Director of NESSN [Northeast Sector Support Network], Northeast Seafood Sector...she takes care of all of the Northeast sectors, okay? She helps us with our operations plans, our membership agreements, anything that we need to get to the government she, with her legal background too, it helps. I would have never been able to do some, I mean the operations manual, like eighty-one pages. She does a tremendous amount of work for the sector, the Northeast sectors. So when she comes down to this area, it's usually John from Sector 13 who is Point Judith, his office is in Dartmouth, Stephanie which is just down the street, and we'll meet here and she'll go over and help us do all our stuff to get it to the government. She does a lot of work.

AC : That's great.

LM : She also, some of the members, there's a few members that have questioned their, "How did you get to this number?" You know, I have one in particular who fished for winter flounders in the channel all his life. But yet, he got a ton of southern New England, it's like, how did they get that? So she does some investigating and, she says, "You know they won't change it this year, but it'll probably be next year that they could. If you can prove to them that, 'Hey I never fished for this species, I always fished for this and here's the areas, and here's all my dealer...' she does research with that. She helped get me up and running for the sector portion of it, when I took over the position.

AC : Sounds like you guys are networked pretty well, and you...

LM : We do, it's good for us, it's bad for Sustainable Harvest, Port Clyde, Tri-, you know Tri-State, the Cape Cod Hook, because we have, we can exercise our right as a group.

AC : Power in numbers kind of thing?

LM : Yeah, they don't have that. But, with all that said we still try to help each other out, even if it's outside the sector. Because we still have meetings all together, all the Sector Managers are brought together, if NOAA has a meeting, um, GMRI, because we still follow the same rules because we're all sectors, but yeah, I mean we have meetings with all our Sector Managers, so we've become very close. We can call each other; we know that, you know, someone will help us out. So it's good things like that, it's, I mean the deal I'm doing with Sector 5 when he told me, he said, "You know I have to, can you wait a day, so I can see if any of my members want to come up with the 2,000?" I was like, "Oh yeah, take your time. I'm not in any hurry. This guy would just like to do

this, and if your sector can trade, that's perfect, I will wait. Your member called me first."

Another member called me from another sector and I was like, "Well, I've already got..."

"Well I'll just do the whole deal." It's like, well, you've got to wait, because this guy was first and I'm going to give it to, you know, I'm going to let him go with it. So yeah, I mean, I do like my fellow Sector Managers, I can't say a bad word about any of them. They're very helpful, and we're all in this together, you know? We have each other to bounce ideas off of, we have each other to bounce different problems that we're having with different members, or...so we have a social network to talk to. And like I said, Libby plays a great part, and Nick Brancaleone, he's now the new Communication Manager up in the [Northeast Seafood] Coalition. He gave us some really good ideas as far as, and came down and presented something about talking to the press, because you want to get your point across, but you don't want to hurt anybody's feelings or you don't want to like fly off the handle. Which makes perfect sense, and he said, "Oh, I can, you know, give me your e-mail addresses for your members."

And so it was like, "Nope, I can't do that. Do you know how long it took me to get them..." I said, "First of all some of them, still don't use the computer, and, but the majority of them do, and I promised them, because I said I don't want to send this information to your boat, because you're getting charged for the character and some of these things I send out are kind of, you know, long. I said but if you give me your email addresses, the one that you look at, your home email, your personal email then you will be able to see what's for lease, who's trading what, anything that goes is sent to me, I will send to you. And I said I will not give out your email addresses. So I've made a deal with Nick that, he can send me what he'd like, and I will send it to my members. And on his email, it's like, if you'd like to join, they have their own option of doing that. I says, but in the meantime, sorry.

AC : Yes. That's a wise choice.

LM : Yeah, and it works for them, they're very happy. It was kind of funny the first sector, first year of the sector, the Sector Manager didn't do that. So they never got emails, ever, and you know, they would say, "How did you find out about that fish?" you know, they'd be talking around because they all talk, oh my.

And they're like, "Oh, well you know my Sector Manager sends it, don't you get any?"

He's like "No, I don't get any of that." So, when he left, I said, you know, I need your email address, I need this, I need that. And then I had one member tell me, he said, "Linda," he said "you sent me over ninety-eight emails."

I was like, "Is that good or bad?"

He says, "For the whole year," he says, "I can't believe all the information that I got." So they were happy, and like I said,

"Listen, you guys need to be informed, how are you going to make any decisions, and I want to see you get the best deal." And anytime I post, if someone decides to lease their fish, it's posted in the sector for three days, it then goes out to other sectors, the other Northeast sectors for another three days. They're carbon (copied) in every time I send it out, and then on the sixth day it goes outside the networks to Sustainable Harvest. And, Port Clyde and the other, the Cape Cod Hook, so, and then if someone decides they want to lease it, the sector still has the last chance of exercising their right of first refusal. So they still get the last word if they want it. Someone might make an offer, of say, you know what, for \$10,000 I would like to buy...you know, lease that. I tell my sector that I have a bona fide offer now from Sustainable Harvest for \$10,000. You have six days to decide if you want it, and if you don't want it, it's sold. But I haven't really sold a lot of stuff, I bought some stuff, like I said I try to trade within the sectors, the two sectors I work them together and I work them hard.

AC : Okay, no doubt that you work hard in general. Linda tell me a little bit about your families' longer-term life plans and whether those have maybe changed in the last few years since sectors started?

LM : They have changed.

AC : They have changed.

LM : Because my, I'm trying to convince my husband to be a shore captain, stay in and let his sons go ahead and take the boats and go fishing. It's not working yet, but I'm still working on it, I'm working hard. The sectors, I think it's a great thing, I think the sectors actually gave the fishermen a voice, because in past years, you know, NOAA would say to the fishermen, "This is what you have to do" and they had to do it. Nobody talked for them, nobody, and a good example was the second year we were fishing, or the first year we were fishing, they have to have a letter of authorization, letting them know that they're in a sector and it has to be on their vessel. And they didn't get them to us until the day before the new fishing year started, and it was on a Friday and

the fishing year started on a Saturday. And they said, "Oh well just have those vessels come back to the dock and get those."

I'm like, "I don't think so." I said, "You know what? You have our rosters, you know what vessels are in a sector, they have black boxes and you can see where they're at, at all times. And if you think I'm going to have somebody come back from Georges Bank to get a piece of paper? No. If you want I can take them over to law enforcement, and when they come in, they'll, you know if they have any problems or any questions I have the proof and as soon as they come in, they will be given the letter of authorization. You've had our information for over a month, it's not our fault or their fault that you didn't get them to us on time." Well, they were mad, but you know what, they got over it, and they were like, well, okay. I said it's not going to happen.

AC : It's one trip, they'll have them on their boats for the next trip. It's just like, come on, it's not, the reality is...

LM : Exactly, and they know what boats are in a sector, they already know.

AC : Right, it's not, yup.

LM : I'm not sure why they thought, yes it tells them all the exceptions that they have by being in a sector, but they know that. So this year they were a little smarter, this year they actually e-mailed us all the LOAs (Letter of Authorization). I was able to print them out or send them to their email accounts and they could print them out, so they had it. It wasn't like a big deal. It was a little smarter this year, because I said, please let's not...we had a Sector Manager call with NOAA, every, I think it's the first Tuesday of every month. We kind of talk about issues, they tell us what's coming up, they might tell us what we sent in, that they're not happy with certain things. It is a good call, it gives everybody a chance to kind of get updated with what's going on, what is our next step. You know, just when you think that you're, you've finished your year-end, you're starting up with a new year, it's like you never get a break. And come November we're going to be starting to get everybody back. Are you going to re-enlist in the sector, for another year? At that point they will have a choice; I think we have to have all of our new membership agreements to NOAA by December 3<sup>rd</sup>. So, we start in November, and getting them in there, if you want to sign up, if you want to stay in Sector 7, stay in Sector 8, or you choose to go to another sector, it's entirely up to you. But you have to have this done and notarized, and luckily, I have a notary right across the hall. So I herd them in there, they sign and so it's like a one-stop shop. Come in, sign, let's go next door, she notarizes it and they're on their way and they're done. I made it very easy for them the past couple of years, I try to make it easy.

AC : They don't have a lot of time when they're in town, they want to be with their families, and get on with their lives, and they don't want to make six stops to a notary, and to this and to that, that's smart.

LM : Oh absolutely, you have to plan a lot of things, you know. That's the thing, you know, if I give it to them, I have a real good chance of not getting it back right away. So this way, I can, I get it right then, that same day and everything is done they don't have to worry about another thing. And they're on their way.

AC : So they're really benefiting too, from your family situation, that you know what the life of a fisherman is very personally, and so you're bringing those flexibilities and necessities, that's great.

LM : Yes, I want them to be with their families, I want them to come home, you know, and when they get home, they've been out there for ten days. So they might be only home for a couple of days and then they're right back at it again, so it is nice because they have to get to their settlement houses, get the settlements done, get their crews paid, bring their paperwork in to me to get..., so I can enter their information. They have a lot of responsibilities to do so I try to make things really very easy and one of the luckier sectors because they come in, they give me their VTR, their dealer report and their sector fees. Some of the other sectors don't have that luxury, sometimes the settlement houses send the sector fees to where they're supposed to be, they don't get the VTR, they have to wait for the Captain to bring it to them or mail it to them. They may not get the dealer report, I am very lucky. I have a great system and these guys seem to be very good, I can't complain.

AC : And how about your quality of life since sectors started, overall if you could, is it better or worse? Not changed?

LM : Overall...I think it's better. Like I said I feel good about, I enjoy working. You know, I always have, but it seems like I feel needed, and I go home at the end of the day and knowing that I was able to help somebody, whether it be leasing Days, finding quota, trading with somebody. I just like seeing them, you know, come in, get what they need and they leave and they're happy. It makes me feel good. And I mean I tell my husband, it's like, "Oh, you won't believe what so-and-so did. Guess what our day, here's how our day went, you know, and...you know, oh this was a win for the sector. Finally we got a win, you know?" So I do, I think my quality of life has gotten much better, I'm happy, my daughter's happy, my husband's happy, so, happy wife, happy life, okay? That's how I look at it.

AC : And now is it full or part-time?

LM : It's part, uh...full-time.

AC : Full-time, okay.

LM : I'm here at about twenty minutes of eight in the morning, and I stay until about three, most of my traffic is in the morning. Most of my guys are in here in the morning. Come lunch time, they're off to the club, this is their ritual. They tell me never to go to lunch with them because it takes four hours. Because they eat, they play cards, they may have a few drinks, it's like, and then they go home for supper at seven, eight o'clock at night. So it's like okay, I have been for lunch once at the, oh God, the Portuguese club. Let me tell you, the food is marvelous! And they bring it out, it's family style, and they keep bringing it out, you know you finish a big thing and it's like, Oh my God, I didn't literally get out, I went there at one o'clock one day and didn't get home until four-thirty, and then my husband's like, "What's for supper?"

And it's like, "Oh, I don't know, you're on your own, man. I'm full!"

AC : Yeah, "I'm done for a day!" (laughs) And tell me a little more about you personally when your husband is away, how you, what's the actuality of how you balance family and you being a mom and work, I mean what are the, what's the nitty-gritty behind that?

LM : When he's away, I, well my daughter is, she has Drama, and Art Clubs, so Mondays and Thursdays are late days, she doesn't get out of school until 6:30 p.m. She is in an advanced class so she does a lot of homework, so when she comes home, when her and I, it's just her and I, we don't, I don't usually cook a big huge meal. I mean I kind of, it's easy stuff for us, not, I don't do take-out, I might do the things that he doesn't really care for, we do fast stuff. Like last night was one of, he's up in Gloucester and I had, I made those chicken, the banquet chicken things, little Cordon Bleu and little noodle and that was it. And the other night we had raviolis and salad. So I mean we don't do, it's something that just her and I have. And usually we sit and we'll watch TV, we'll talk, talk about our days, she tells me all about her drama and what's going in with school and her friends, and so it's nice now. This weekend she's working the Scallop Festival down in Wareham, or down in Bourne. She works for a bead lady. My sister-in-law does jewelry, she made this. But she's not working this year, so my daughter, she asked, she goes, "Oh, would your daughter still like to do that?"

AC : I was like, "Oh absolutely." And next weekend is the Waterfront Festival, we'll be working there. She'll get volunteer hours because she's in the Honor Society, so we do, and her and I, how can I put this, we have some favorite

shows we watch together and that my husband doesn't care about, the Grey's Anatomy (laughs) you know, the girl stuff. Or we'll go shopping, not a lot, we're not, neither one of us are real big shoppers but just to get out, do something go someplace, rent a movie. He and I have a lot of... we're very close. She's such a love, she's a nice person, and she's a nice person to be around. So we kind of enjoy our time away from Dad, like I said I've been doing it all my life and it doesn't really, it's my quiet-time a lot. I can sit back and just, myself, I'll do laundry, do some cleaning that I might not do normally, just so..., I clean that shower. That's the first thing I do when he leaves, I clean that shower so good it's like, I clean it every weekend, sometimes a couple of times during the week when he's home. But when he goes it's like you can clean things and they stay nice for days.

AC : Isn't it amazing when the guys are out of the house, you're just like, this is really, it is.

LM : I love this! I know, and it sounds kind of terrible, my mom has been sick lately, she's had a little, a couple of surgeries so, she's recuperating. I spent a lot of time travelling back and forth, so I haven't really had a lot of time to, you know, sit down do some of those favorite things I do. Because I'm back and forth with the rehab, making sure she's okay, visiting, talking, and my daughter, so juggling those two right now, I've been busy. But, it seems, and like I said I look forward to his calls every night, I look forward to him coming back. That's one thing I can say, I always look forward to seeing him, or talking to him on the phone. That just never gets old with me.

AC : That's a beautiful thing.

LM : It is a beautiful thing. Like I said, I'm happy and I feel good, so things, things are good in my life. Like I said, money, we don't have a lot of it; we're smart about what we do, you know, when we're in our low season right now. Like I said, he's not being paid, it's only my check coming in. I watch the money, I pay attention and we get by. We don't do anything extravagant, you know, if we don't have the money we just do something else. So it's just, we get by, let's put it that way. A lot of these guys, they get by, they pay their bills and they're out for the next trip. And that's how we do it.

AC : So would you, you don't have to give me numbers, but percentage-wise, would you say you're contributing more at this point in time, to your...

LM : At this time I am. He hasn't fished since April. So I pay him periodically, I might pay him for some reimbursements, I'm not giving him a salary because I need to pay my other people, my other crew. And I'm not taking a salary either. The corporation is supposed to pay me, but if there's no money, I mean I need to pay my crew, even though they're my sons, they still have lives. I'm making

money here, so it's a contribution. It helps if I can pay myself from the other thing, but it's not a deal breaker, luckily. I'm in a position where it's not..., like I said, I have a little bit of a savings, but just enough in case I can't make a mortgage payment. You know, because I still have mortgages, and I have a car payment. I only have five years and four months left on my mortgage, so...

AC : Wow, that's exciting, that really is! Congratulations, getting close.

LM : Oh yeah, it is exciting. But, you know, just, I know, it's, I'm getting close.

AC : Now health insurance, do you pay?

LM : Health insurance, oh my God. I asked the board, the sectors if they would pay my health insurance now because my daughter and my husband are on it. And he's also on the Board of Directors in Sector 7, he's the President. Which he abstained from voting, because I let them know because my insurance is \$1,991 a month. It's crazy.

AC : And that covers your husband and your daughter?

LM : And my daughter, and that was the bronze, that's not even the most expensive plan you could get. I have a lot of out-of-pocket that I have to pay, it's, the health insurance is really...I can't believe people can live like this.

AC : Even in Massachusetts...,

LM : In Massachusetts it's the worst. I mean, my mortgage payment is \$2,300 a month, my insurance is actually \$2,200 and change. I pay \$147, because when I went for my contract, my contract is up in the end of April, with the sectors. And when I went for the renewal, I didn't ask for a raise, I just asked them to pay for my insurance, which is \$24,000 a year, okay? And when I was working here part-time, the first year, I was making \$25,000. Well, I didn't replace myself when I took over the sector position, I said I could do both jobs. So I asked, I didn't want the raise, but basically it is a raise, I just wanted them to pay for my insurance. And I don't have them pay me, the insurance is paid directly out of the sector. I don't want it to be my income, and I want the sector to get credit for it because right now the government is reimbursing the sectors for the Sector Manager salaries, big expenses, so they would be reimbursed for that, for my insurance. And they all were very happy to do that, which I was very grateful. Because I don't think I could, I would never be able to live like that, I wouldn't be able to afford it. Of course if that was the case and I wasn't making the money, my insurance would go back to the Mass Health, and it's almost free. But to pay this much money, it's unbelievable, and then the penalty is going to be even worse if you don't have insurance. And I

keep trying to figure that out, I keep saying, you know, luckily, knock on wood, we're healthy. I go yearly for my physical, my daughter, my husband. He's diabetic type II, so his medications he needs to have. I'm learning that he can, I guess he has Veteran's Benefits, he was in Vietnam. We're going to figure out what to do about this, hopefully my insurance could go down, maybe the, he could go on a different plan.

AC : Educational benefits potentially, for your daughter too, right? I had heard about that.

LM : Yeah, and I want her to have insurance, I mean, I still have to pay and that's the other, dental is separate. I pay, it's like, and you know, if you think about it, oral hygiene is part of your health. If something goes wrong in your mouth, you have some issues. But you know, it's kind of crazy. It's very expensive, and the insurance for a lot of the guys is very expensive. They're in the same predicament that we're in. That was why they, they used to have the fishing partnership, which was an HMO, Pilgrim Health, and it went by your 1040 every year, which was great, because it was manageable. If you didn't make a lot of money in one year, the next year your insurance wasn't going to be that high. But the problem with that was the older fishermen were getting medical conditions. There was no new blood coming in, so now they were paying out and they weren't receiving, so that's why they dissolved it. Which Ted Kennedy really was a big factor in helping the fishermen with health insurance. He's the one that really, he did a good job for Massachusetts, he did a great job for Massachusetts, a lot of people don't realize what he did. And what he did for the fishermen, he was by their side, you know, Senator Kerry, he's a Senior Senator, he's had to step up a little bit. Senator Brown has done a tremendous amount of work for the fishermen.

AC : Okay, that's great.

LM : Yeah, hopefully he'll get re-elected, I don't think Elizabeth Warren has fish in her vocabulary. She hasn't been to the docks at all, which is unfortunate, so yeah, we need as much help as we can get, personal and even in our businesses. I mean even the boat insurance, some of these guys pay \$40-50,000 a year. My boat insurance for three boats is \$47,000, yeah. And, oh, they let you finance it for nine months, lucky me! So my payments are over \$2,000 a month for the corporation to pay for the insurances for three vessels, so you know there's a lot of expenses involved. Not just with going and fishing, you have your dockage, your insurance, you have your fuel bill, ice. This is just things that you need just before you can leave the dock to go get that fish. It's ludicrous.

AC : Has the onset of sectors influenced any of that, has it made it more expensive, or less expensive?

LM : They've added a fee to that, they have a sector fee they have to pay. They pay a percentage of what they bring in to keep the sector running. Like I said, right now the sectors are being reimbursed by the federal government, but that's going to go away. And that's, we're going to have to make sure that our sector fees, which are coming from the fishermen, will be able to pay our salary, our health insurance, to keep this place going. And hopefully they won't have to tie up, because the more boats that tie up, you know, I could be out of a job. You know, if they don't need them, or they'll merge them. So a lot of things coming down the pipe that doesn't look very good.

AC : Now when you look at the industry since sectors started, what are some of the biggest changes that you've seen? We've kind of gotten to this a little bit, but explicitly are there..., for better or for worse or...

LM : The biggest change I've seen...some better, some worse. I mean a fisherman can go fishing and he can catch as much fish as he wants, okay? Obviously he's only going to catch his harvest share, or that's what the plan is. It's become, I don't know, I think they always kept track of their fish, always. Whether there were sectors or not, everybody kept track of what you had for fish, everybody kept track of your Days at Sea. That's what they had to do, because they had to be in compliance with the government. A lot of these fishermen were hurt by the law enforcement problem, that didn't help them. They didn't..., sometimes I get a little mad, because see, actually law enforcement has no idea how much fish a member has, okay? Or has left. But they do know the limits of skates, they do know the limits of monk, they do know the limits of fluke, dogfish, so they'll try and zero-in, make sure what they have there. They did it to one of my members just recently, the fluke, before they shut it down. They were allowed 300 pounds, okay, for the whole trip. He had 320. They wrote him up, okay? They took the twenty pounds, that guy probably had fluke for dinner that night. I'm just saying, to me, some of these things are very petty. And I did have, I did tell the Sector Manager to fight it. He had skates, and I think he was like, I don't know, thirty pounds or so over, but a lot of it is water weight, ice, they got to give them some type of yield, some type of...

AC : Plus or minus.

LM : Yeah, 5%, you know, because you've got to think of that water weight. And I said you know what? Fight it. Tell the guy to go in and fight it. He didn't try to disclose it, he didn't try to hide it, you know, and it was just, some of these guys, the stress levels of these guys that go out fishing, worrying about, "Do I have? Am I over? Am I...," they're tired, you know, I'm not saying, I'm not

giving them excuses, but I mean it's not like thousands of pounds over, thirty, twenty pounds, I mean really? And he got a warning, now if he'd come in again with that twenty pounds they can shut him down. They can shut me down. It's just, and they're always worried about how they're treated. It's, I wasn't...my husband used to tell me how they were treated until I actually witnessed it myself one day. When my boat was coming in, my husband was out fishing and they said Law Enforcement was, or the Coast Guard was escorting a man, and my Captain called and said they want to see the owner. So I went down, and I'm standing there with my guy that unloads the boats, and the garage door opens, the skiff kind of went around side, my boat, as soon as he threw the lines, five federal agents came, and I didn't even hear them, from nowhere and stormed the boat. Like they were criminals. They were this close to one of my crew, you know, and the crew member was, because he was getting red, red, red. I'm like, oh my God. Because he said, "We didn't do anything wrong, we didn't do anything wrong!" and I said to my, the guy that unloads, the guy said "Sit the F\*\*\* down or I'm going to put you're f\*\*\*ing in jail!" So I'm like, and of course they escorted the Captain into the other quarters, so then I'm like, "What is going on?" I had no idea.

We were catching Jonah crabs, so law enforcement came and handed me a ticket for \$440,000...four violations, \$110,000 for each about the American lobster. I said I don't have any lobster on board, but I have a trap, and they can catch lobster with a trap. But I said I never, I don't bring in lobster because I don't, I don't have the tax, I can't do that, alright? I had, the problem was the licensing, I had a federal license for lobsters, but you need to get the tags from the State, and I couldn't get tags from the State because it had no lobster history, the boat came from Louisiana. So it wasn't catching. So I looked at this, and I'm like, you know we're not catching lobster, they looked, they searched the whole boat, there was no lobster on board, none. So he said I want you to go and bring in all your traps. I said, "Okay, wait a minute, just step back." I said "My husband is out fishing, he is the owner, I will, when he comes in tomorrow, I said let's not be hesitant, because I...", and when he told me to go out to get the traps, you know, dump the load. So how am I going to pay for their fuel if I'm dumping, and it would've taken me six trips to get all the traps back, okay? So I said, "Let's not be hesitant, you know, eh, hasty (laughs), let me just..."

AC : Right, let's be reasonable here.

LM : So I went home and I got all my dealer reports, all my settlements to show him that I never landed any lobster. And I said to him, I said "I'll just take the lobster permit off the boat, I'll just take it off." The federal lobster license, and it was just, because I said, I don't understand this.

So then he said to me after all this was said and done, "I don't think we'll be going on the boat it seems like your fishermen are a little agitated."

I was like, "You think?" You know, you might as well just have shot them, it was like you should have lined them up and just shot them, I couldn't believe this. And the problem with that was, when he, when my husband came in and he looked at all the settlements and the guy said "Oh yeah, you didn't have any lobsters." I mean I had all my records and we did take the license off of the boat, not knowing that there was a conflict. I didn't know that, we didn't know that. We weren't catching them, we weren't targeting them, but because we had a trap that is considered catching, or you could catch them. I mean they did, they just threw them back, that's all, caught them, threw them back. But, when my husband finally went for the hearing, you know, "Okay, well, we're not going to fine you the \$440,000, we're going to, you know, \$5,000."

I said, "We don't have \$5,000"

"Alright \$2,500." I swear to God, I ended up having to pay \$2,500, I didn't have \$2,500 but I had to pay that. Some of these fishermen were really abused by law enforcement. They had a heavy hand and they're still afraid of law enforcement. We still have a couple of, not law enforcement, but green police that are kind of, how can you say? Over-zealous sometimes, that's how I like to put that.

AC : That's around the port, people are saying, not just with your guys but...

LM : No, that's in New Bedford here.

AC : Is there a history to that? Is there some back-story, maybe they're...?

LM : You know, I understand that they supposedly have more authority than even a State trooper, but somehow the way you come across.

AC : But still, a little decency goes a long way.

LM : And like I said, these guys have been mistreated for a long time. There was never any watch-dog, so to speak, and obviously because they had all those SUVs, and the trips and the boat, and you know they were, they sent, supposedly Dale Jones and Charles Juliand to the Gulf, because Dale Jones, the Head of Law Enforcement, he shredded the documents, which, this is, and I'm thinking, you know what? Some of these guys have paid hundreds of thousands of dollars, lost their homes, went to jail. Don't you think that these guys would be fired for that? Charles Juliand was also on my case for my *Shamrock* and told my husband that, "Don't even bother taking this to court

because you won't win." Because there were judges on the payroll, also with all that money that they got, that always went in favor of NOAA, or law enforcement.

It's very disheartening, and I'll tell you, it's hard for them now, because they were, and I'm not saying that every fisherman wasn't in the wrong, okay? You know, you pay a fine or whatever, but they made up their fines, there was no rhyme or reason for any of these fines or what they did to these people. And Charles Juliand I don't think ever went to the Gulf because one of the Sector Managers, he dated his sister in high school, and he happened to be up in at the NOAA headquarters and happened to run into him. And when he said to him, he said, "Wait a minute, I thought you were in the Gulf?"

He said, "Heh heh, I haven't been in the Gulf!" but you know, obviously you can't go into that building without, it's highly secured, you're not allowed to walk around the halls, or whatever. So yeah, it's kind of sad, and what does it take for somebody to get fired? You relocate the guy? The guy is still on the payroll and you're relocating him and in the meantime some of these fishermen don't have anything now? They're done! I mean, that guy that took him to court, you know, he lost everything, and why?

AC : So this is a whole other element of sort of stress,

LM : So these guys, yeah, they're still stressed out about that, because it still could happen to them. I mean, like I said they don't have any idea what they have onboard or what their quota is, but still, they worry. They've got to make sure they've got to count, their crew members, do we have enough? Did you count the tails? Did you count the wings? Did you do this? It's a hard position, it's a hard life, and to have to worry about this, and I'll tell you, these guys are not violators, they just want to get their fish, bring it home and go home. And that's all they want to do, they keep their noses clean, they keep their heads down, they don't say a word, they don't like to be interviewed, they don't like to be talked to. Because they're afraid that somebody's going to come back to them and say, well you, you know, they're going to target them. And that's what they've had to worry about over the waterfront all these years, and it's sad, but anyway. That was (laughs), I forgot about that.

AC : No, that's a big story. Do you have, do you have a little bit more time?

LM : Yeah, sure.

AC : How are you doing? I know I'm kind of keeping you longer than I said.

LM : I know, I'm not answering all your questions.

AC : No, no that's okay, we'll just kind of, a few more and then I'll, I know you have a lot of work to do. In terms of your husbands, part of what the project is looking to understand is just social dynamics, and how, maybe his relationships might have changed, does he, are his peers, other fishermen?

LM : Yes.

AC : Are they in the sector, outside the sector or both? And how has all that changed?

LM : His peers are in the sector, he's involved in, he's a board member on the Northeast Seafood Coalition, he is a board member in the sector, he is the President of the sector, he's also a board member of NESSN, which is the sector...Northeast Sector Service Network.

AC : Libby's..., yeah.

LM : Sector Service network, Northeast Sector Service Network, that's what that is. He is on the Harbor Porpoise Take-Reduction Team, he's on the Monkfish Committee. He's trying to..., he's got a lot of good ideas. I mean I'm not just saying that because I'm married to him. He does have, you know, some good options, or some good alternatives. A lot of these fishermen do, a lot of these fishermen have great opinions, like "Have we tried this?" or "Let's do this." They have a lot of good suggestions, but they've never been heard. It's like, "well you're a fisherman, what do you know? We're making the rules here." And it's kind of, it's kind of sad, because he gets a little frustrated, because they do make all these suggestions, and then they still do whatever they want. Which, but he doesn't give up, which is good. A lot of fishermen make a lot of good suggestions, or try a different alternative or something, and it would be just great if just once they said, "Well you know, a fisherman came up with this and it's working!"

AC : And so he's on these committees, and...

LM : He's on these committees, he's involved...

AC : So they're friends, friendships?

LM : Yes.

AC : Has sectors changed that, or is it not really a factor?

LM : Not really. He's, you know, he's added more friends to his, I guess friend list, from being in a sector. Because now, and he's learning, well, they used to go

out there and they'd say, "Ugh, those draggers went through my gear!" Well you know what, that's not happening anymore. It's almost like, well they're trying a new thing with the, they're going to open up a closed area, but the lobstermen go in there and for a certain amount of time I think it's like July to October or something, and they're trying to go for a gentleman's agreement to say, "Okay you go here at that time, and then we'll go in after that." So there's no gear conflict.

AC : Wow, that's big.

LM : It is big.

AC : It's a big deal, yeah.

LM : Because they're willing to talk about that, and they're willing, yes, willing to do that. So they're willing, and everybody will, it's a win-win situation for everybody. They can go into a closed area, they can go in a certain time of year and everybody's going to get whatever they need. So, you know, there's a little more, um, how can you say this? They understand I guess about the gear, you know, and especially like the guys on my sector who are the trawl guys wanting some of my husband's..., maybe *needing* some of my husband's fish. Chances are they're not going to run over this gear, very good, because they want to keep that good rapport.

I think there's been a lot of change, not just with my sectors but with other sectors. Different people, different gear, options, they've learned to work together. And that's something that they haven't learned to work together, I think they're, I think they get along better, because they're finally figuring out, "Hey, listen, and no pun intended, we're all in the same boat, and to keep it from sinking, we're going to do this. We need to band together and show them." That was the best thing about a fisherman, if you..., the government has thrown, you know, the VMS, the computers, do this, do that, and let me tell you, if you've been on the boat, and to try on a BoatTrax or SkyMate, to go through, and it's not just like one screen, you've got to go through like six, seven different ones, to, I'm on a sector trip, I'm going to this area it's open area, I want a flex trip so in case I get this I can change over, and, oh, okay. These guys that you give, they have thrown something at them, and because this is their livelihood, they've adapted, and they pick it up quickly, and they do it quickly. And I think NOAA gets frustrated, it's like, okay, they figured out another way. They're smart people, they're human beings, you know, and like I said, if that's your livelihood, you need to know how to do it, you're going to do everything in your power to learn.

AC : You're going to innovate, you're going to adapt.

LM : Exactly, and they adapt quickly, very quickly.

AC : Yeah, that's a good point.

LM : And they help each other out, out there. You know they talk to each other on the radios, you know, "I need your help on this. Where's the fish? Are you catching over there?" They do, they have their own little communication out there in the ocean, I think it's great. I think it's great.

AC : Yeah, that is great. How about your perceptions of health issues, and that could be physical or mental health issues that you might see within your sector or in the community or even your family that might be related to fisheries, and maybe sectors, or maybe not. But just, are there things you see that have changed in that regard?

LM : I think that to some degree the stress is kind of alleviated from them. They've, like I said, I mean, this is just from my own experience from my own sectors. I have helped a few other sectors, their members. If I have something, in fact the other day I gave, another sector member from Sector 13 was here for a meeting. And he was telling me that someone got 100,000 pounds of southern New England yellowtail, and I was "I don't think so, I didn't ever see that advertised." So, I did a print-out screen on NOAA's website, everything that's traded in the sector, or outside the sector I should say, any other sectors' trade is all public information. You can go on to the website, you can say "Oh, what did Sector 7 trade to Sector 13? Or Sector 8 trade to Sector 9?" And then you can even say southern New England yellowtail, well, I said to them, I said I want you to look at something. And I showed him, I said "Okay, so here is the sector. Now here is southern New England yellowtail. Do you see 100,000 pounds there?"

AC : He said, "No."

LM : I said, "We can look at 2010 also. And 2011. So let's take a look, because you said it was last year, right? 2011?"

AC : "Yeah, yeah" So I gave him a step-by-step printout on how to go home on your computer and do this yourself. And I said, "It's public information, I'm not giving you any information that you wouldn't be able to get and now," I said, "stop listening to the rumors. Stop listening to the waterfront people, they're worse than little old ladies out there." By the time it gets back to me, oh my word. One little thing and it's like the guy got everybody's quota by the time it gets to me. It's like, the guy, some of these people will say things to kind of get

their goat, just to be sarcastic. But these guys take it to heart. And it's like, stop listening to somebody.

I says, "You know what? If you really want to know, you should talk to your Sector Manager, we hear everything." I said, "Or call me, I'll tell you, I'll tell you just the way it is." I said, "I don't hold anything back, and if I hear something or I hear something that's great news, I send it out, so that the rumors don't start, here's what really happened, because it happens all the time." And last year was like, Sector 7 has different rules than Sector 8, and it's like, well they're doing, it's like, I don't care. You guys voted on it, if you want to change it then you have to have another board meeting, and you have to change it. So stop worrying about what Sector 8's doing, because it ain't going to help Sector 7. I have to run you as two different companies, so stop. But as soon as I do something, as soon as something happens, everybody knows about it. The whole waterfront knows about it, Sector 9 will know about it, everybody knows about it, because they're all...it's like...

AC : But so less stress, when you said health issues...

LM : Less stress for health, but I think they're, I think they're just a little more relieved, just in my sectors, okay, like I said I can't say for other sectors, I think that they, you know they call me, you know, for pre-trip, I'll pre-trip them. They go out, they do their thing, they come in after seven or ten days, they're clean, they smell good, they're happy. They bring in all my stuff, and they're, you know, "Will you, I want to go out again on Saturday, or Friday."

And it's like, "Yup, I'll do it right now, don't worry about it, and you can...," you know and then I don't see them again.

AC : Do you see any sort of cultural components to, because most of your guys are Portuguese, do you think there's a, you know, that they would differ from what maybe other sectors look like in terms of, I don't know, maybe not, but...

LM : Maybe. Besides, well being Portuguese and older?

AC : Okay, so they're in a different sort of place.

LM : They're in a different kind of group because they're older gentlemen, like I said, sixties.

AC : Probably have a lot of self-respect.

LM : Oh, and they're very proud to be here in America, they've done very well for themselves, and as they should be. They should be very proud, they're nice

individuals, they're nice men. They're, like I said, I have never been yelled at, I've never been anybody's, they've never stormed out of here, or, they seem to be okay with what I give them. They seem to be, they feel good about it. Like I said, I'm sure they also keep track of it. Oh, and I bet you they keep track of all their fish. And that's good, but I give them another component that they didn't have before, and that's the discard rate that they need to add to that. Which some of them are, my discard rate is, oh my God, in certain areas are, I can't figure it out. I've tried but I can't, I don't know how they get to it.

AC : The assumed discard rate?

LM : They have that piece that they didn't have before, like I said they all keep track of it, still. And that's okay, because that's good, because you know what, if I give them something, they'll say, "Oh no, Linda, I think I should have more, didn't you fix the trade, or I traded something in?" So I said to them, I said, "Listen, I have a lot of guys, I do a lot of different things, and I said sometimes I do make mistakes, I might hit the button twice, and so please, and I just in fact I did do something wrong one of my guys had done one groundfish trip, and then seven squid trips, and the other Sector Manager never entered it, I enter everything. Which brought his, in his southern New England area, it said he caught zero southern New England, but he had 3,465 pounds of discard. And I'm like, oop, wait a minute.

And he's like "Huh?!" He had a year-to-date total of 10,000 pounds of discard, total for all of the species. And he says, "Linda, I only did one groundfish trip."

I'm thinking, "I got to look into this." Because it didn't dawn on me that he was declared out of the fishery, okay? So I called Libby, and I said, "Oh God Libby, I don't know what I did, I did something wrong. Because I, you know, it shouldn't be like this." So I talk to her about it, and as I tell her what has happened I'm pulling out his VTRs and everything, and she says,

"Oh Linda, you need to delete all those DOFVTRs, because he was declared out of the fishery, and there's no groundfish..."

And I'm like, I said, "Okay." So I deleted them all, I called her back up, I said "Could you rerun that report again, so I can see if it worked?" So then he went from 10,000 pounds of discard day, to 160 pounds. So I called him up because he was going fishing out, he just almost had a heart-attack coming into my office here after me telling him, you know, "Oh, you got to look out for your discard, you don't have enough..." you know?

And him, "What are you talking about...?!"

And I'm like, "Oh, I'll find out, I'll find out." And then I'm thinking I don't want him going out there for seven to ten days, thinking, "What the heck did that girl do to me? Oh my gosh, what am I, how am I going to get this?"

So I call him up, I said "It was my mistake," I said, "I called, I found out what was wrong, I entered all those Declared out of Fishery seven VTRs," I said, "I deleted them out of the system. It has now brought everything back to normal. You've caught zero yellowtail, southern New England yellowtail and you have zero discard there."

So he's like, "Oh, Linda thank you." He goes, because he was going to call NOAA himself, and I said,

"Let me look into this" because I knew it had to be something I did, I knew I must have done something. But I would never let him go fishing, because I said, "I don't want you to go out there thinking, the whole time, your whole trip catching, you know, you'd be catching, it'd be like (gulp), so I said "Listen, I just want you to know that I don't do this for everybody, I just do it for the favorite, my favorite fishermen. I always like to make sure, people, your hearts are racing, are working.

AC : Right, right, just want to keep you up on your toes.

LM : So Libby says to me, "Linda," she says, "you owe me, some of the Sectors Managers blame smack traps, fish traps, things that we have which is such a great tool"

I said "No, I knew it was me, I knew I did something wrong, because it's usually the person inputting the information. How does FishTrax know what you're doing if you don't input it? I was just glad that I got him before he left and that I was able to get it fixed." So yeah, I do make mistakes and like I said I have a lot of guys, and I have a lot of different things going on with different guys, and you know what? They're very patient with me. I don't have any problem with saying "I did it, it was my fault, I'm sorry." I always tell them, "I'll make time for you, I'll sit with you, do whatever we need to do." Like I said, I guess if you, not that I'm...I'm not perfect, that's what it proves, I'm not perfect and I'm willing to say I did something wrong. I never say, "Well you did it." Maybe they don't, they're used to, "Well the fishermen overfished it, the fishermen did." It's like, no I did it, I did it to you.

AC : It's doubly hard in a complex arena like fisheries, to juggle everything.

LM : It is, and then to have to have them worry about something else. So I would say that they're, I think a lot of them, and they're taking vacations, when they

go they know that I'm going to do their "Did not Fish" for four or five weeks, or two months. I would love to go on vacation like these guys, even *The San Paolo* would never, this guy works 360 days a year, right? Tells me that he's taking two weeks off, I was like "What?!" I says, "You're ruining my record, man. You're my only fisherman that..." He comes in from fishing and he's always working on the boat, just like my husband. My husband doesn't come home until five o'clock at night, okay? When they come in from fishing, he's always doing something. Fixing something, you know, around town, charging something. (Laughs). But they're hard workers; and like I said, it just, I don't know, so I think that their well-being has helped a little bit.

I hope I've made a difference in their lives. I hope I make things easier for them, I try to take as much things, as much burden as I can, like I said, the pre-trip, leasing their Days, giving them what they have left to land including the discards, so that they can kind of compare and see, just, I'm trying to give them as much information as I can. And, you know, when I went to the thing for Senator Brown, I had a letter that I wrote four topics on, to the Senator. And it was for the wives, and I told the sector members that I wasn't going to give, I was going to give him the letter, I was not going to bring it out. I just, and I did, I said, "You know, Senator, I have written a letter to you, I'm going to give it to you, read it in the bathroom, read it wherever you need to, I'm not going to bring it out today. I want to hear from some of these wives here, I want to hear what they have to say. I am a wife of a fisherman and I do have two sectors, but I want to make sure that, you know, that my sectors need help too. But I think some of these wives will be able to tell you some stuff and you're going to need to help some of these people."

But I let my sector members know how it went, I sent them a copy of the letter that I gave to him. With the help of Nick, from the coalition because he helped me pick out some certain things, I put some stuff in, he says "Take some of the things out." So he helped me and that was a great thing to get my point across most efficiently. But yeah, I keep them, I tell them, and then I have my fishermen to show me, at Point Judith, Tony, you know, he's just, he's, they're all good. I got to say that, they all have good hearts, but sometimes some members are, I don't know, a little more compassionate. You know, like the response was, "Oh Linda, thanks for doing what you're doing for us." You know. And I try to do as much as I can for them, I do try, and like I said sometimes I don't succeed, but at least I get up there and say my piece and I speak for them, I hope to speak for them.

AC : Represent, that's...and I guess, in closing is there something you would want to end on, or maybe a recommendation for people who want to get into fishing?

LM : You know, fishing is, yes, the men that fish, that bring fish to our tables, and our restaurants and everything else, they're hard working. You know it's not like "The Deadliest Catch" and the dramatic, you know, they only catch the, and I think a lot of those guys do a lot of that stuff for the camera, but, yeah. And they don't realize either, that, I know that I got off the track here, but, they don't realize that they have quotas too. I don't think some of the people that watch this realize that they're buying quota, and if they don't catch it, they still have to pay for all that quota. They don't get money back, and they can't give it back, but the fishermen I would love to see guys, young guys, go into the fishing business.

I'm hoping that the government steps back a little bit, maybe involves the fishermen, gets the fishermen more involved in cooperative research, maybe sitting down at a table and channeling some of these ideas, some of these suggestions in a positive...I would love to see NOAA, NMFS, come together with the fishermen, and maybe even some of the environmentalists, I don't know, but, because they don't want to lose that resource either, they don't want, they do... They're farming out at sea is what they're doing, and they want to make sure that there's still fish out there, you know, for them to go every week, or every ten days or whatever. So they don't want to destroy that either, but it would be, the best thing I think the most positive thing out of this would be if they got together, they actually could agree on certain things or try different things, just extend their hand, you know, and really mean it. And I think that the fishermen would have a better, you know a lot of these families they don't say to their son, "Oh I want you to grow up and be a fisherman." They keep closing these areas, they keep, you know, putting more regulations, dropping the tax, dropping the quota. Well, how are you going to make a living if you go fishing and you can't...you know. So I hope someday that would happen, I hope someday that they'll be able to come together and work together in a positive manner, for the success of, you know, the fishing industry. It's going to be, too many boats are tied up at the dock. Too many boats, and for what? Because these guys are too old and they can't find somebody that is ready to take on, or take, and even their mates, their crews have been on the boats for thirty...some-odd years, so they're not young chickens, you know? But anyway.

AC : Right, and I just thought of something else on that note: infrastructure. Have you seen that change in New Bedford, or Fair Haven?

LM : Oh, absolutely. When they, that is a trickle-down effect. Every time someone ties up, something else is closed. When they did the skates, this was a very good example. We have five processors here in New Bedford, okay? They went from 5,000 pounds a day, to 500. Three plants shut down in one day,

because that was what they did. They processed skates. All those people were out of a job.

AC : Oh my goodness. What year was this? Was this recent, fairly recent?

LM : This was two years ago.

AC : Two years ago, right around when sectors were starting, just happened to coincide?

LM : Yes, just right when they were just starting.

AC : Okay, separate management measure just happened to be around sectors.

LM : They were in a sector, I think it was 2010 this happened. But you know more boats tie up and lease their quota, well, they have no, it trickles right down to the food truck, if you think about it. They're not freezing, so the freezer's out of business. They're not fueling up, the fuel place is out of business, they're not icing up and they're not processing. So they don't have anybody going in and processing fish. And all those people are laid off, and businesses close. Yeah, it's been very bad. And Foley Fish, there's a gentleman I, I'm trying to think of his name. He's looking to do a project where you take a picture of a captain and the vessel, so when they process, when they buy their seafood that you can actually, they have a little app (application) for that, so you can see what the boat looks like and what the captain looks like. It's a big step, considering Whole Foods made that terrible debacle about how they wouldn't buy codfish because it wasn't a sustainable fishery. I'm thinking, oh my God, you know, we in the United States here have the toughest directed fisheries in the whole world. And sustainable fisheries, a lot of buyers in Europe won't buy unless it's a sustainable fishery.

We just had, we were involved, we signed, I signed on, okay, I wasn't involved, I signed on to a letter regarding the dogfish, because the dogfish is very popular over in France. And as, and the dogfish is a sustainable fishery, it's not overfished, and they went through this big thing, and now we have a market that we can sell our dogfish over there. And they will buy it, so for Whole Foods to say that, firstly it was very arrogant and very ignorant. I don't think anybody checked that out. And Laura at Foley Fish, she is, God-knows how many generations of fish people; fish owners, her Dad, her Grandfather, you know. Very, very smart woman, she is new on the council, which is great, because she's coming from a plant-owner, processor, fish buyer, and she has a lot of fishermen that are customers. So, it's nice to, I would love to see them get a little more, I would love to see them get some fishermen on the Council, some of these guys need to go away. I know they have, I think a six-year term

and then they have to move on. When they had a, they did a sector, “How the sectors went the first year” thing last year in Portland. I went to that, and I, the first day, first of all, I didn’t know who the members were on the Council, I didn’t know, I mean I knew a couple, but I didn’t know everybody, so I mentioned that to the girl that, I forget her name, I said, “You think that maybe the second day they could introduce the Council members so we know who they are?”

She goes, “Oh, what a great idea!”

I’m thinking, “Hmmm.” And then I said, “I thought it was for sectors only.” But they had people from NOAA’s Observer Corps, NOAA people, EDF (Environmental Defense Fund), environmental people, I’m thinking, there must have been 400, 500 people in this place. And I’m saying, and we were kind of, it was kind of a spur-of-the-moment, like they didn’t let us do it in groups of, and then present what we felt about the sectors, you know, certain things. I was just, it was a little nerve-wracking.

AC : Sure, sure, that’s a big audience to, yeah, unless you’re trained. That’s tough.

LM : I’m thinking, my God, a sea of people. I didn’t think it was the right thing to do. I don’t know if it helped us, but it couldn’t have hurt us, I mean, I’m willing for anything to happen. That’s the other thing, I mean I know that they, NOAA makes, they enforce the laws, but the Council actually gets through with the rules. I wish they would go in and look at the Magnusson Act. It needs to be revisited, I mean it was done years ago and a lot of things have changed, the climate, and a lot of things have happened over the years. I think they can go in and look at that, re-visit that. There’s got to be some flexibility in there, but again I don’t know if they really want to do that. So I don’t think, I’m not getting anything positive out of NOAA. I mean I can’t, you know the Mark Grants, the Willy Whitmores, the people I have to deal with as a Sector Manager because I have to be in compliance, yeah, they tell me what to do, they give me all my guides, and then I have to do that. They’re very good if I have any questions, they do help. I do have some contacts at NOAA, you know, some people on the law enforcement that help me, I’ve dealt with them when I was just, just me and my husband when I was working, you know for him. So I’ve learned..., actually the same people are actually still there. I met them, I talked to them, I formed a relationship with them, so I know if somebody has a problem it’s like, “Oh, you know what? Let me call this person because I think I can get an answer. Or he can direct me to somebody that can give me an answer.” I have never had any problems with working with anybody up there. They are there to do a job and they’ve helped me. It’s just, I wish they would do the same thing with the fishermen. You know what I’m saying? I wish they would get the same response, I would like that.

But anyway, so my best hope for this is that someday there will be more fishermen, new fishermen, and a happier, and more resourceful and organized fishery, where everybody is working together, you know? I hear about Canada and the Georges Bank yellowtail, and how they, you know, they have science just like we do, but you know what? They listen to their industry and we don't. It's like, something's not right here. You know, your industry is, God, that's where you get all your information, you know? They're there, it's like, you know it's great to have scientists and maybe, put them on the vessels, do whatever you need to do, but this is going to end with their own little, you know, using the wrong equipment on a vessel, using a vessel that shouldn't be out there, using their own people that are not even experienced. It's going to end, it has to end. They need that co-operative research; or if that's the best thing that ever comes out of this, I'll be happy. And the fishermen will trust them too. I think that'll be a happy medium.

AC : We need to get to that point.

LM : We need to get to that point, and we're not there yet, and the Sector Managers are trying, Sectors, everybody, trying to get to that point, questioning that all the time. We question them every time. How did you get to that discard rate? What is this? Here, SMASS is doing things, we have all these people doing things that actually, you know, have your data. This is something you don't have to pay for, you know? You're wasting all the government, you know, this is people's money, okay? The government is spending money that they don't need to do, and why? So they can keep telling them, "Oh the fishermen's wrong, the fishermen's wrong, the fishermen's wrong. But we're using the wrong equipment..." and it's like, "Oh, they're in the room, they can hear you." You know? I don't know, that's, to me, that's kind of like, who cares? So...

AC : Well, hopefully things will change with...

LM : I hope so, people are...

AC : ...people like yourself backing them up and making their lives easier

LM : The sectors are helping these, the fishermen, their Sector Managers. We've got some great trust. That's the best thing I think to have come out of the sectors. Besides the members trusting each other, they trust their Sector Managers, they know that they can get some type of help or some type of resolution, they know that there's somebody else there to help them. There's another voice, they can finally say, "Okay, the fishermen said that?" oh, you know, walk away.

AC : Excellent. Well thank you very much for your great time, Linda and all.

LM : Thank you, I enjoyed this, this is...

AC : I'll just reiterate that I'm with Linda McCann on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, 2012.  
Thank you.

LM : Thanks for having me.

AC : Sure.

END INTERVIEW

[2:42:33]