

Interviewee: Angel Martinez
Interviewer: Tina Bucuvalas
Consultant: Kristin Sweeting
Date: April 3, 2022
Place: Bradenton, Florida
Transcriber: Kristin Sweeting

Abstract: Angel Martinez belongs to a family of Mexican background. From Michoacan, Mexico, his mother belongs to the Purépecha indigenous group, for whom fishing is a major part of life. Martinez first started fishing with his father at his grandmother's house on the banks of a river. He and his father gradually acquired knowledge about fishing, and finally started commercial fishing part-time 6 or 7 years ago.

Martinez has many pleasant memories of fishing with his father, and sometimes finding surprisingly large schools of snook, redfish, snapper, grouper, and other fish. But he takes seriously the dangers involved with fishing, like the time that the bow of his boat was almost swallowed by a wave or another time when they were overtaken by a sudden storm.

Martinez and his father crew a boat together and pursue mostly mullet, ladyfish, and mackerel. In addition, they sometimes fish for grouper and kingfish offshore. He actually owns two boats: a Parker for recreational fishing or charter fishing, and a skiff for commercial fishing. Martinez is in the process of starting a charter business so that he can step away from his other job, welding, and be on the water full-time.

Martinez has often observed problems in the Gulf caused by red tide. He attributes the greater frequency of red tide to issues such as overdevelopment and destruction of the mangroves. He also believes that there is some correlation between the flooding and rising water caused by climate change and the many seabeds or grass flats that have turned into sand flats. It is his sincere hope that we will be able to address the causes of climate change and lessen its effects.

[00:00:00] **Tina Bucuvalas:** I'd like you to say your name and where you are, and then if you could tell us about how you got into fishing, I mean, whether, and also whether it's something that's been in your family, the different family members, or whether you learned from somebody else. And maybe tell us about your earliest memory of fishing.

[Production crew interjects]

[00:00:28] **Tina Bucuvalas:** All right. Should I just one question at a time.

[00:00:31] **Angel Martinez:** Yeah. Also, my name's Angel Martinez. We're right now on Eastside Bradenton. Eastside Bradenton, Samoset area. What was your next question?

[00:00:43] **Tina Bucuvalas:** It was your family in fishing, and if so, who was, and what was their name?

[00:00:54] **Angel Martinez:** Okay. So none of my family has been fishermen. I think my, well the one who started with fishing was my dad. And well, when we first started fishing, we were fishing off the bridge. And the earliest memory that I remember from fishing as a kid is my grandma had rented a house, was renting out a house in Ruskin, and she had docks behind her house.

[00:01:13] **Angel Martinez:** And I was like, oh, I just wanna fish like my dad. He was throwing a cast net, catching mullet. And I was like, I just wanted to do the same thing, catch a mullet too. And I think I was like four or five and threw the cast net and I caught a mullet and that's what I would always cherish the moment we were all kids.

[00:01:29] **Angel Martinez:** I, like four or five, like I said, caught my mullet. And that from there on it was just like I wanted to do something, you know, keep on fishing. But like I said, the only one we, me and my dad just we kept growing, kept going to like, expos, online, would be asking questions to like tackle shops and stuff like that. And just getting more knowledge, more knowledge of fishing.

[00:01:53] **Angel Martinez:** And we were just kept on trying different stuff. Whether it be cast netting, pole fishing, we did we, we were doing all kinds of stuff growing up. We just like, just to get into fishing, you know, build like build a relationship between my dad.

[00:02:18] **Angel Martinez:** Cuz my dad works a lot. When we was growing up, he would work a lot. So anytime he had off we would go fishing, you know, just to spend time together. So it was a..

[Production crew interjects, production problem and ask Angel to repeat from beginning]

[00:02:38] **Angel Martinez:** So, my name is Angel Martinez. We're right now currently in east Side Bradenton, Samoset area. And so I have no, I mean, no fisherman I've got, and my family's my dad, really. We, we really got into fishing together. The way I got into fishing is so like I said, my grandma was renting a house somewhere in Ruskin by some river.

[00:03:04] **Angel Martinez:** And she had a dock behind, she had a little dock behind her, behind her house. And I saw my dad throwing the cast nets. He was catching fish for the family too, so we could eat. And I was like, I just wanna do that too, you know. So my dad got, got me a little small cast net from Walmart and started cast netting and then I caught a fish and I was like, oh man, this completely changed my life.

[00:03:24] **Angel Martinez:** Cause I wasn't really into sports or anything like that. Tried soccer, we tried to get into baseball, but it wasn't really my thing. Nothing like fishing, you know, catching fish. It's like, it is exciting, you know, cause you throwing that sometimes you don't know where you're catching and sometimes you catch fish, sometimes you'll grab like leaves or a tree, a tree, limb, anything like that.

[00:03:42] **Angel Martinez:** But fishing is just completely changed my life. One at that moment. Just something different.

[Production crew interjects. Asks Angel to repeat because of background noise]

[00:04:05] **Angel Martinez:** So yeah, so I was never really into sports. I was never into soccer, baseball just like a regular kid. I was never into the sports thing. But my dad got me a cast net when I was little and then went to the back of my river at my grandma's house and I threw that cast net and caught that fish. And it just completely changed, changed my view of [curse word] how, how I was fishing catching, catching, seeing the net, seeing the fish inside the net. It's completely changing my views. There's nothing like it. It's like, it is just different, different emotions. I don't know. I guess when it clicks and you like something, you just do it.

[00:04:41] **Angel Martinez:** When I saw, like I said, outside that fish inside of my net, I just, that's something I always wanted to do. Just keep on fishing and like I said, that's it.

[00:04:50] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Have your father and you continued to fish over the years?

[00:04:53] **Angel Martinez:** Oh yeah. I mean, that's the only, that's my only fishing buddy. You know? The only thing, like we run, not charters, but we'll, we'll like go take a couple guys fishing out together, group of friends and we'll, we'll go together.

[00:05:04] **Angel Martinez:** Me and my dad. We'll, it's really, really rare that I don't go with my dad. Really, really rare unless it's commercial. Or he is at work or something like that. But rarely, me and my dad don't go together. I mean, it's always me and my dad out on the boat, on the boat whether there be commercial fishing, mullet, commercial fishing lady fish, mackeral, the summertime run.

[00:05:27] **Angel Martinez:** But it's always me and my dad together. Always, always me and him go together on the boat, regular or commercial.

[00:05:34] **Tina Bucuvalas:** So you never lived in Cortez, but how did you how did you end up becoming a commercial fisherman? How did you sort of make the leap from recreational to commercial. And how does that link up with knowing the people in Cortez?

[00:05:56] **Angel Martinez:** So the way we made that leap is we would like every, like during the run season, we like to catch mullet and we like to smoke 'em, like for smoke mullet and stuff like that. And we just caught, we would go out and we would just fill up the cooler in like 30 minutes, 20 minutes. We were like, man, we were like, we want, we wanna do like, we wanna catch more, but, but we could probably do this as a business now.

[00:06:20] **Angel Martinez:** And, and we were like, so we started talking to guys, trying to see who, where we could like, you know, kind of do the, the commercial thing, cuz I know there's a whole process for commercial fishing and, and regulation stuff you gotta do. And then one of his buddies at work is like, oh, I'm, I'm doing the mother thing and I'm, I'm just starting off.

[00:06:39] **Angel Martinez:** And so we start asking questions like, so how do we get the licensing? How do we How do we start all this, you know how, what

we need? And we got it with him. And he started telling us, oh, well you need a, a cool a fish box. You need a lot of ice, cast nets. And, and what else? And the boat. We already had the boat, obviously.

[00:07:00] **Angel Martinez:** We already had the boat. Cast nets. Well, we make our own cast nets, so that's not an issue. The only issue was the license, the license part and the, and the, and the finding the fish boxes. Cuz we weren't gonna make our own. We wanted to buy something or to pre-made get going. And he's like, well, he got his license.

[00:07:21] **Angel Martinez:** He was, we went with him to teach us how to, how to, you know, how to get going and stuff like that. And so when we went with him, he's like, oh, we need this and this and this. You need, the first year we went, we were just like struggling. We were like, we don't know what we were doing. We were just like, trying to fill up the boxes.

[00:07:39] **Angel Martinez:** Not knowing, you know, not knowing the rules or anything. There was like boundary lines, you gotta follow. There was like kinds of things, you know you had to follow. But we were working with him one whole year, one whole season, run season. We were working with him and man, we were just day and night we were just pushing it, trying to get into like the whole licensing part through him. And then through him we just met people through him. We just make connections with other people, like trying to like, you know, make, make friendships or, or not friendships, but what's it called? Like build bonds with people and stuff like that.

[00:08:13] **Angel Martinez:** And eventually one, one guy would stick with one guy all the time. Like when, when the guy wouldn't go with us fishing, we would find some other guy to go fishing with. Just cuz the licensing part we needed, we needed. And then we was just like, our friendship just grew tremendous. And we just look course to these people. Well, once you get with them, they'll, they'll always help you out, you know? So that's how we got into it. The first year we just me, even at the fish house, we off loading fish. You met other guys unloading fish too. We, oh man. We, we were out here and then some of the guys said, oh, I was out there, should probably head out there and then we trade phone numbers.

[00:08:47] **Angel Martinez:** And then, you know, just one phone call turns into two phone calls, and then you're calling each other every day, couple every couple hours to see if fish that moved or anything just, and that guy sends you to, sends you information from another guy. We just build relationships, you know, along the way. And now that I'm like, I don't know, like seven years in, 6

years in we got friends all over the places, you know, but that's, that's how we got into it.

[00:09:13] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Sounds like it's a really accepting social group and kind of a brotherhood. Would you, how would you say, do, do you feel very comfortable in this? Has this been a real positive thing in your life?

[00:09:26] **Angel Martinez:** Yeah. I'm, it is definitely a brotherhood. I will say there's, in that brotherhood, it's just the Cortez people.

[00:09:34] **Angel Martinez:** You know what I'm saying? We don't really accept, I mean, not saying that we don't accept them, but it's kind of like regions, like we don't really like match up with like the east coast people. We really don't really connect with the peoples from St. Pete. We really, really connect with, we just have like our own like little areas where we, where we really don't connect with, but the court, if, if we're all Cortez people, then we all match up with the Cortez people.

[00:09:57] **Angel Martinez:** We all give each other information, stuff like that. But there's like things we don't talk between each other. Like we don't talk about like secret, like secret like little fish spots, fishing spots we got or stuff like that. But we'll definitely share, share information. Like, not tell you the exact location, but we'll give you like a certain area to go check out.

[00:10:14] **Angel Martinez:** You know, something along those lines. But definitely like, kind of like a brotherhood, fishing, brotherhood, stuff like that. Something like that.

[Production crew interjects]

[00:10:35] **Tina Bucuvalas:** So, so you've been doing this commercially, I think you said for about seven years. And can you talk a little bit, you said you were part-time and who did you start working for or selling to? And has that increased? And also, what kind of fishing are you doing?

[00:11:01] **Angel Martinez:** So yeah, I've been doing it like for six, seven years. Really, can't remember. I was still in high school when I was doing it from what I remember. And we, it just been increasing. We would sell usually to Blinkers and, and Karen, mostly Karen. But if here's the reason we were starting to, to Blinkers because if we were loaded down, we don't want to carry all that weight onto the trailer.

[00:11:26] **Angel Martinez:** Because imagine having another 3000, 2000 pounds on the, on the trailer and something happens to the trailer to you on the road. It's like really dangerous. You know, you don't wanna flip that boat over or, you know, damage, damage your boat mid season. So we, we try to unload wherever we're at and if we are close to Blinkers, we unload at Blinkers.

[00:11:43] **Angel Martinez:** But usually we'll take that risk and just unload, unload with Karen cuz she she's always bought everything from us. She's always done everything straightforward with us. So we, we always try to unload with Karen. But what was your other question? Sorry.

[00:11:57] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Yeah. Are, are you fishing mullet or, or what are you fishing and what all have you fished?

[00:12:02] **Angel Martinez:** Oh, so usually we just fish for mullet. Well, our main goal is just mullet, lady fish, mackerel, all, all of that together. We tried doing it during summertime, but we're just so busy doing other things during the summertime cuz I just do the part-time, I'm doing it part-time, but trying to become more full-time in it, just leaving my welding.

[00:12:25] **Angel Martinez:** Trying to do something I really like the, the whole fishing thing. But I said we've been doing mullet since like, I was like five or four, you know, so mullet's always gonna be there, always. If I don't have time for nothing, but I will always make time for, for run season, you know.

[00:12:42] **Tina Bucuvalas:** And so could you tell us, like, again, you may have already said it could you talk about when run season is also what kind of net you're using and if it's a cast net, which you mentioned before, you said you make your own. And I'd like to know whether you cut it and then do it or whether you might actually knit it.

[Production crew interjects]

[00:13:09] **Angel Martinez:** So yeah, I make my own cast nets. People run mostly these commercial guys run into the issue of where they don't make their own cast nets. And we do, we make our own cast nets.

[00:13:19] **Angel Martinez:** We make 'em anywhere from eight feet to like 14 feet. Something with that range, because I think the regulations, they can't be over 14 feet. So we have all those nets. We make our own nets because, we were breaking our nets all the time and we just decided like, why, why not make our own nets? This is when we were little.

[00:13:40] **Angel Martinez:** There used to be this guy called Basal, lived somewhere and I think what it would be East? No, west side Bradenton. And he was an older guy, I mean super, super older guy. Super nice guy. And he would make cast nets and he was like, I remember we were literally, he was like, your guys are breaking your cast nets too much, so I'm gonna teach you how to fix them.

[00:14:00] **Angel Martinez:** And so the guy taught us how to fix, fix our nets. And he's like, and then my dad, me and him would go back all the time telling, he would teach us how to cut up the mesh. Cuz we don't, we don't sew it or net the nets. We just cut our mesh, cut our mesh up, place 'em together. And he taught us how to do all that.

[00:14:18] **Angel Martinez:** He would make his own lead. He'll make his own lines and stuff like that. And he taught us all that and we start, and we start making our own cast nets. And and we, the only thing we would need for him from when we start making our nets was was the, what's it called? The, the leads that go on the bottom of the net.

[00:14:34] **Angel Martinez:** And he, he, like I said, he taught us he passed away. But man, that, the older gentleman, he taught us a lot, he taught us a lot about nets and we're thankful cuz we made a business out of that too. We made a business out of outta cast nets. But like I said, we, when it's, when the fish are deep, we use a heavy cast net.

[00:14:51] **Angel Martinez:** When the fish are in the flats, we use a lighter cast net. But like I said, that guy taught us a lot about the cast nets. It's something we really absorbed and, you know, kick in.

[00:14:51] **Tina Bucuvalas:** So were you saying you used to sell the cast nets that you made?

[00:15:04] **Angel Martinez:** Yeah, we used, we would sell 'em, we would sell 'em out to other commercial guys and everything.

[00:15:10] **Angel Martinez:** There was a lot of, we, we would make a lot of, I mean, it's either fishing or we would make cast nets. And I really don't want, I, I stepped away from making nets. Just cuz I really want to do the fishing part, the whole mullet part, you know. It just, it takes time to make a net and it's a whole like, group effort with my family cuz I, I got my family involved so it's a whole group effort and then it just took too much time making a net. And so, not that it took too much time, but it was just, I wanted to spend more time fishing.

[00:15:41] **Tina Bucuvalas:** So could you talk about how your year goes? Cause I know you, could you talk about how you weld, you know, part of the year and then you take a break from that and you go out fishing and anyway?

[00:16:00] **Angel Martinez:** So, so let's say in January, January is already towards the end of run season. Well not, it's still run season kind of, but more towards the end part.

[00:16:08] **Angel Martinez:** And that's when I had to split my time between fishing and welding. And then ,what is, in February, it's more welding. And then right now, March, I try to try to go more of the fishing side just cuz it's springtime fishing and there's a lot of fish moving around. So I try to spend a little bit less time welding and more time fishing.

[00:16:30] **Angel Martinez:** And then towards the middle of the year, summertime, I'm, I'm just full blown welding because so much work, so much things to do. So I spend more time, a lot of time welding. And then when October comes around, it's when I start fishing for mullets or looking around for mullets. So I take time off work and start, you know, driving around on the boat, stopping at bridges, looking at bridges, trying to see where, where the fish are at because they'll, they'll, the fish will move around and once I know they're staging one area, they'll move around to the next area and we'll just, we'll do that step by step where we're, we're in October, they're in this area and we'll fish 'em in October and then we'll fish 'em in November.

[00:17:07] **Angel Martinez:** We're just following 'em around. But I, I have to take, I have, I take vacation time off. So, I'll take like a Friday and Saturday off. Or I'll take or, or I'll take like three days off to just to go fishing. But usually I, I don't take, really take vacation off for like family events or anything like that.

[00:17:23] **Angel Martinez:** I usually take the whole month of December off and when I'm welding I just completely stop welding in December. And I take my whole time vacation time to go fishing. And so that's what I mostly do.

[00:17:39] **Tina Bucuvalas:** You mentioned before that you go fishing with your father, but on these com, on these commercial trips, who do you go fishing with?

[00:17:45] **Angel Martinez:** Just my dad. Like I said, on these commercial trips, I just take, it's just me and my dad. Like I said, me and my dad never, pretty rare that me and my dad go split, split apart. And he does a trip, right? No, it is, it's always me and my dad. I mean, sometimes I bring other people on

the boat when it's like big days where, where we know we're to catch a lot of fish.

[00:18:03] **Angel Martinez:** I try to bring somebody on the boat so it's just a little bit less weight on me and my dad. But it's just mostly me and my dad cuz nobody really likes to be out there in the rough waters, you know?

[00:18:12] **Tina Bucuvalas:** And have you ever worked on anyone else's boat?

[00:18:15] **Angel Martinez:** No I've, no, not really. I never worked on somebody else's boat cuz I got my own boat, you know, why am I gonna jump on somebody else's boat and get, you know, get a pay cut, you know?

[00:18:24] **Angel Martinez:** Not really my thing. So either I'll take, if I catch fish, I catch fish. If I don't, I don't. But I mean, but I'll never jump to somebody else's boat.

[00:18:33] **Tina Bucuvalas:** And can you tell me a little bit about your boat or boats and why you're using this kind of boat for mullet fishing?

[00:18:40] **Angel Martinez:** So, yeah, I got, we got two boats right now. We got a Parker, which is the one right behind me. This is the newer boat we got the beginning of mid last year we got it. It was more for like, more for fun, more for like, you know, more to like where I'm transitioning into like the whole like charter fishing. So I'm gonna start using that one more for charters.[00:19:00]

[00:19:01] **Angel Martinez:** And then I got my, I got the Carolina skiff, which is in the back right now. That one's my commercial boat. That's my work boat right now. Mulletts, lady fishing and everything. It could get dirty and super heavy duty. I mean, we've, we've hit bridges, we've hit piles, we've hit all kinds of stuff, and it has it broken, you know.

[00:19:20] **Angel Martinez:** That's my work boat. But I'm gonna start charting off that one, off the skiff first. But those are my two boats.

[00:19:29] Have you already started chartering or are you, are, are you just thinking about beginning or?

[00:19:34] **Angel Martinez:** No, I'm, right now, I'm in the process of submitting my paperwork. I already got the classes done and everything.

[00:19:39] **Angel Martinez:** I just gotta send in, in send in the paperwork right now. I'm in the process of sending in my paperwork, so I'm gonna start chartering. But my goal is probably go offshore charters mostly. I don't, I haven't decided yet what I wanna do, but it's definitely chartering cuz I definitely wanna step away from welding and do something I really like, you know, enjoy something, you know, if it's gonna take my time I wanna do something I, I like. So it's definitely doing chargers.

[00:20:06] **Angel Martinez:** Have you done a certain amount of offshore fishing yourself? And if so, what kind of fish were you pursuing?

[00:20:14] **Angel Martinez:** Oh yeah, we, I mean, right now, like on the skiff, we've gone like 30, 40 miles out. Offshore has just brought a whole different, like, game into me. Like it's, you never know what you gonna get in, in, the ocean, you know, it could be a big snapper, big barracudas.

[00:20:33] **Angel Martinez:** You could run into a little a ball of blackfin tunas, mahi. It just, offshore has been super duper nice and I said we've been taking the skiff out there 30, 40 miles out. Which is really not the type of boat you should be taking out there, but we take it out there cuz it's some man, it's super duper exciting.

[00:20:52] **Angel Martinez:** But we bought the Parker so we can start, you know, making safer trips out there. But man, offshore just, we, we've been doing it for the past, I wanna say like, 13 years, 12 years, and man, just offshore just brought a whole different ballgame. But the fish I love from offshore would be, it would be between, I would say grouper and kingfish would be the two type of fish offshore that I, I would like to catch.

[00:21:21] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Is there a particular memory that you have of fishing, like with your dad that sort of encapsulates the perfect day or why you love fishing? I mean, is there, can you tell us like a concrete memory of a particular time?

[00:21:39] **Angel Martinez:** Oh, man, there's a lot of memories. I don't know the most recent, well, I would say the most recent one would be we were offshore.

[00:21:49] **Angel Martinez:** It'd probably be like October. October or November, somewhere right there and then the Kingfish were just like going by the King Fish run on the beach and we were chummin it up and then we ran into

some kingfish and we caught some kingfish. And then just, everything just stopped. And then we started pulling up grouper from the bottom.

[00:22:08] **Angel Martinez:** And then one of these guys, one of the guys we were out there with, he throws a line out and we just see this line just running across the water, just like run across the water. And, he starts reeling it up and it jumps out of the water. And it was a sailfish, we were like, what? We were like, we never thought we would catch a sailfish out there, you know, it was just like, and we saw sailfish, like, man, it just blew my mind. Like, we would never thought that we would be out 30 miles out catching a sailfish on a Carolina skiff, you know, just something I never thought would be like, you know, cross my mind. That would be one. But I think the most memorable, not memorable, but the, the more pleasant one would be we went out in the morning, we were fishing, we were catching bait, and we saw these birds just diving on the bait and we're like, oh, we'll just catch, you know, we'll catch some lady fish or whatever.

[00:23:00] **Angel Martinez:** Bluefish were out there, and we ran in, we were catching like snook and redfish and then, and we were like, oh, all right. So we caught like snook and redfish, so we decided like, you know, pulled the poles back in and we're trying to head offshore. And we head offshore with, man, we got mango snappers, lanes, groupers. And we came back tired because we caught, we caught everything. We caught everything inshore, we caught everything offshore, you know, just a perfect day, you know, it was a long day, but we caught a little bit of everything, but it was just me and my dad that day. It was just me and my dad did that.

[00:23:32] **Tina Bucuvalas:** And what is your favorite fish to eat, and what is the recipe, kind of, how would you prepare it?

[00:23:37] **Angel Martinez:** Grouper. Just grouper and some, some lemon pepper, blackened it.

[Production crew interjects]

[00:23:51] **Angel Martinez:** So, yeah, my favorite fish to eat would probably be Grouper. Some lemon pepper and just blackened both sides and man, put it on a, on a tortillas, you know, cuz I'm Mexican put on a tortilla with fresh hot sauce on there, some salsa verde, ah man, just filleted grouper, just on a tortillas. Really, really good.

[00:24:11] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Sounds good. In fact we all had grouper for lunch. Alright. And sort of similarly but different was there a time you really felt in danger out there on the water? And can you describe that and how, why was it frightening and how frightening was it?

[00:24:35] **Angel Martinez:** It'll probably be, there was two scenarios. The first time would be we were we're on the boat.

[Production crew interjects]

[00:24:52] **Angel Martinez:** So the most frightening time, bad time that I had was on the boat was when we were, we were running after the mullets.

[00:25:02] **Angel Martinez:** Probably be, be, we were coming around bean point and we were coming back in cuz we lost the fish. We were coming back in and then we caught, we were coming in back into a Longboat pass and we had caught a wave from the side and it just completely swallowed our boat. Our front end of the boat just got swallowed by the wave and we were like, man, our boat's gonna go down.

[00:25:24] **Angel Martinez:** Like we were, we were, I mean we were loaded down with fish and our boat just got swallowed by, by the wave. And we were like, man, it is just quick. You're like, man, crazy cuz all you see all this, all this water just come on top of your boat. You're like, man, I hope you just hope the water, just the water goes back and the boat comes back up.

[00:25:43] **Angel Martinez:** And luckily, luckily my dad throttled it up and our boat picked back up and we got outta there. But man, our water was up to our knees on the boat, you know, just scary, scary, scary situation. Cuz you see half your boat go under water, you're like, man, you don't know if you're gonna come out of this, you know? But that was definitely one of the scariest one. But another, another scary moment I had was we were, we were going off would be can't remember somewhere down south. Can't remember, but we were, all the family was in there and beautiful weather. I mean, just flat calm, no nothing, no rain, no clouds or nothing.

[00:26:24] **Angel Martinez:** And we were just cruising on by and then all of a sudden it just got dark, in summertime you know how Florida is in the summertime where it just starts raining, it just gets dark outta nowhere and it just got dark outta nowhere. And like within the hour it just start raining really, really bad. I mean, raining really bad.

[00:26:40] **Angel Martinez:** And then these winds were like, 40 hour winds, 40, 50 hour winds. And which just horrible, like, like tornado. Tornado was about to hit us or something like that. And we were just running, we, I remember we were running back as family, like my sisters were crying and everything. I was like tripping out too. It was bad weather.

[00:26:56] **Angel Martinez:** And we decided to like tie up our boat to the bridge and it were just, the weather was super duper bad. I mean, our boat were just like slamming the side of the bridge. It was we were, it was, what was scary was the thunder, the thunder, the lightning that we saw around us all. Like, oh man, hopefully we don't get hit by the lightning.

[00:27:14] **Angel Martinez:** Cuz when you're close to the lightning on the water, it just, it just sounds super duper loud, super bad. But it was definitely one of the, the second scariest moment with my family on the boat.

[00:27:26] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Yeah. Especially if your sisters are out there too. You're, you're pretty young in the industry, you know? Do you see a lot of other people your age coming into the industry or do you feel like it might be a problem that there aren't enough younger people in the industry? I, I definitely see enough, a good amount of young people in the industry. Definitely a lot of young people in the industry.

[00:27:57] **Angel Martinez:** It's just hard. I mean, the thing is, the problem is not the young people in the industry, is the young people keep on doing it. The, the long trip, you know, for it to be like still making it in your thirties and forties, you know, there's a lot of people do it young and then just deciding, no, I really don't, I don't wanna do it.

[00:28:16] **Angel Martinez:** And then they just stop within like a year or two into the, into the whole commercial or, or charter fishing business. And I think that's where it affects it, you know, where, where people see it's not what it is and it takes a lot of hard work, a lot of time. People don't wanna put that hard time you know, into the whole business cuz you got a lot of things either go into consideration like.

[00:28:38] **Angel Martinez:** You got the boat, maintenance, a lot of fees renew license, renewals fuel, just all that, just coming into consideration cuz you have to put that out out of pocket, you know, and it's definitely takes a lot, takes a lot of a lot of money to play. But there's a lot of young people out there, I'll say. There's definitely a lot of young people out there and they're doing the same way I'm doing it, you know, we love it. There's nothing else like it, you know?

[00:29:05] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Do you think that's the primary motivation? And do you think that's, what do you think the difference is between the people who stay and the people who leave? I mean, you seem very attached to fishing and the water, but do you see any difference between the people who stay and the people who leave?

[00:29:22] **Angel Martinez:** Yeah, I mean people that, the people that stay usually are like driven. They just want to make it. They, they have to make it. There's no other option. You know, they have that drive to like keep on going.

[00:29:32] **Angel Martinez:** And people that, the people that don't make it, it's because they want to give up. It's not really something they like doing it, but do they really love it, you know, like me, I, you know, I, I love it, you know, that's why I'm trying to step away from welding and move more into the whole commercial charter fishing business, you know, because it's something I like.

[00:29:49] **Angel Martinez:** I mean that, at first I was like, man, I was like, I don't know if I'm gonna make it. And then, but I was like, man, I have to try, you know, I have to keep up pushing. I have to, you know, make it, I have to make it. And that's it.

[00:30:02] **Kristin Sweeting:** Can I interject real quick?

[00:30:03] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Yes.

[00:30:05] **Kristin Sweeting:** So is it as, is commercial fishing as lucrative as welding, or is it about like, you love it, that's where you wanna be, you work on the road and do commercial fishing? Or is it cause it's more lucrative, or is it both?

[00:30:28] **Angel Martinez:** I mean, I will say, I mean, welding's brought a lot of money to me, but it's not as fun as fishing, you know? No, I mean, welding has a, I don't know, it's something I always want to do, you know. I want to be on the water, do something different every day, go do different areas, fish different areas.

[00:30:50] **Angel Martinez:** And welding, you just, I mean, there's different type of welding, but majority of the welders are just stationed in warehouses. And you just do the same things over and over again, and it just gets tiring. But the money's there, you know, some, the skill, skill and the money is there. But I'm just trying to step away from that and go more into the fishing where I could like, you know, you're your own boss, really, your own rules.

[00:31:11] **Angel Martinez:** You wanna do, I mean, the money, you're competitive. You have to compete with other, other people in the business. But man, if you love it, there's really no competition. You know, you just do it, you know? I mean, yeah, you have to work a little bit harder, a little bit more expensive, but the money is always gonna be there.

[00:31:30] **Angel Martinez:** You know, there's enough bread for everybody, man. There's enough everybody can make their own bread. I mean, if you're good at what you're doing, the money's always gonna be there, you know? Well, I don't say I'm the best, but I'm gonna try to be the best, you know, and this is something I definitely do want to try and push towards, you know, fishing.

[00:31:48] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Kristin, did you have anything else or I mean.

[00:31:51] Feel free to mention.

[00:31:51] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Okay. I was going to ask you about how you see the environmental issues in the Gulf right now. I know there's been there's been a lot of red tide incidents, for instance, you've probably been active long enough to have seen some of those. What do you think about those? What do you think is causing them and what have you seen?

[00:32:23] **Angel Martinez:** So the whole red tie situation, well, I'll start off by what I seen. We were fishing that red, big, massive red tide killed that, killed everything. Killed a lot in, in Tampa Bay, Manatee County, Sarasota. There, there's this group of fish.

[00:32:40] **Angel Martinez:** The, the red tide was starting to come in through Tampa and the fish were coming from the south to the north. And so these fish we were fishing 'em. They came outta Longboat and they decided to come in through Longboat and they would go to head north into Robinson Preserve cuz it's Robinson Preserve. And nobody could fish in there, the mullets left to going in there.

[00:32:59] **Angel Martinez:** And so we were fishing them and they went into the preserve. And that day I remember we had, we, we were having a cold front come in and the tide, the red tide was about to come into the Tampa Bay. And we had a north, north wind hit us with a cold front and that red tide went into Robinson Preserve. And we were like, man, me and my dad were like, man, we don't know if the fish are gonna come out alive cuz that red tide was bad.

[00:33:23] **Angel Martinez:** I mean the base smelled really, really bad. And, and then the next day we woke up, we woke up like about four, four in the morning, five in the morning. And we decided to drive and it just smelled bad. I mean, Robinson Preserve just smelled bad. And then, and then we decided to take, take a look around Robinson preserve, and we just started seeing all these dead fish.

[00:33:41] **Angel Martinez:** And they were just, I mean, it was just super duper bad. And then by the time we came back, we were like, man, we're not gonna fish today. We decided, you know, just, it just smelled bad. We just decided not to fish. And then, and then later on that day, we found out that some, like couple, like, what was it, like 4 million pounds of fish have died inside Robinson Reserve, and it was all mullet, something like that.

[00:33:58] **Angel Martinez:** And they, that's when the whole Robinson Reserve had to get big dump trucks and just get these big, big construction type of bulldozers. You just scoop all the fish outta Robinson and preserve into the dump trucks. And man, it was just bad, man. It was just bad, bad, bad. That was when I realized that how bad red Tide was, was, and I was like, man, it was a lot of fish that died that year.

[00:34:19] **Angel Martinez:** That, I mean, a lot, I, I mean, It almost made me feel bad to even fish that year. You know? It's just like, man, so much fish died that year. I was just like, man, I don't think, I already had time off. I was like, man, I don't know if I want to continue fishing after all that, you know, dead fish. And I just think, I mean, on the cause of all this red tides, it's just, I, for me, what I think is all the causes of the, of the county, because they could easily, they, the state dumped all this money into Mote Marine and everything, and they, and they dumped all these million, millions of dollars into Mote Marine.

[00:34:53] **Angel Martinez:** Why haven't they found like a solution to it? You know, like, you have all this money, all this funding. Why can't we find a solution to all this red tide? You know, what are you doing with the money? Where's the, show us the results. Show us what you're working on. There hasn't been, no, everything's gray smoke.

[00:35:12] **Angel Martinez:** There's, there hasn't been no clarity, there hasn't been nothing. You, you, you try to talk to the county about it and they just, oh, they just blow you off the whole thing with, with the leak. I can't remember the leak. The leak that happened in in port Manatee. What is it called? Piney point.

[00:35:33] **Angel Martinez:** The whole Piney point situation. Why, why didn't we stop before we got into that situation? Why was it ignored for such a long time? Like, we could do things to prevent it from happening again or to get to that point. You know, why, why did the, why did we have DeSantis come into the state, into the county to do our work for us?

[00:35:55] **Angel Martinez:** Like, you know, it, it's all the neglect us, the, and they didn't want take information from the commercial fishermen or any, any charter captain, cuz we see this every day. They're out in the water every day. They're putting their time into the water. They see where the fish move, they see where they, where, where, where fish are dying.

[00:36:11] **Angel Martinez:** They're seeing, they're seeing this every day. Why don't they take their information from them and then they call you what, what I call fake scientists. They'll just go out and they ask people, oh, what you do? How'd you do? And just, it's all fake data, man. Like you, in order for you to be a scientist, you have to be there all day, every day actually be doing the work.

[00:36:27] **Angel Martinez:** You know, in these commercial charter, the commercial and these charter guys guides, they're, they're always in there. Like, take their information, see what, how, you know, it's affecting. But I will say that once I, man, it's just bad, bad, bad, bad, bad. I mean, I just wish the county would listen to the commercial fishermen and like other people like in, in the business cuz see, you know, if we could come up with a solution. Man we can't, we have to do something about it. It just, red tide just affects air. It doesn't affect, only the commercial fishing people are, affects all the bus restaurant, businesses. All the little island business on the island. It affects all that, you know. But I, red tide, I mean, I just wish there's some type of solution to the red tide.

[00:37:08] **Angel Martinez:** I don't know, something we have to work out with. If there was more clarity with, with the, with the government agencies and through the county and all this, if there's more clarity, we'll definitely get somewhere. But so far it's just been all quiet. Nothing has happened there. They've, Mote Marine invented something, but there's, has it worked though?

[00:37:27] **Angel Martinez:** Like is, you know, tell us something, you know, let's work together. Let's, like, if we have to, like, you know, if we have to, put a little bit more restrictions on there, we'll make it happen. But nothing has happened. Well, from what I've seen, what I heard recently, I don't, I haven't seen nothing happen.

[00:37:47] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Do you think there are any other problems out in the Gulf? In terms of water quality or rising water temperatures or,

[00:38:00] **Angel Martinez:** I think the big one for me is that, that is that that house development and they're just knocking all these mangroves down. I, I think. For me, an important thing is keeping the mangroves where they're at. If, if, if that's where they grew, that's they, that's where they have to be. You know, why, why are we knocking down all these trees, all these mangroves? Why are we trying to make all these houses? The water clarity growing up, when I, from what I remember, it was super nice, super duper nice clarity. I mean, fish everywhere.

[00:38:27] **Angel Martinez:** And as soon as we start making drain pipes, drainage pipes here over there, it just, man, it just, from what I remember from from me growing up from a kid to now, it just, it just gets bad. You know? There's just so much movement of the water us forcing water to go and through certain ways cuz we make canals, you know. I think it's to all, everybody trying to come into Florida and they're just trying to adapt to the people coming into Florida, but they don't think about the environment, the long term run of, of the environment, what they're really doing to the environment, you know. Cuz they're just trying to comply with people coming into Florida, which I think it's like really, really bad.

[00:39:07] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Do you see any effects of flooding or rising water that might be, have been generated by climate change or environmental change?

[00:39:23] **Angel Martinez:** Yes and no, in certain areas. There, there's definitely been a lot more flooding. It's just, I don't know. It's just definitely the environment is definitely changing. Where there used to be a lot of sea grass, a lot of sea beds. It's no longer sea beds. It's all like, it's all like sand flats now.

[00:39:44] **Angel Martinez:** I think the biggest one that I've seen so far is out of Robinson Preserve, and I've seen Robinson Preserve is a bad spot. I think their idea or the theory behind it's a good, good thing. But if you, if you look at it at a map in front of Robinson Preserve where the grass flats used to be.

[00:40:00] **Angel Martinez:** We used to run through the, there we used to run all that growing up, all that we, I mean, day and night, we would run it and it was all grass flats. And then as soon as they built that park, right, it's all in front of Robinson Preserve. It's all sand, now. It's, it's all dying now. You know? It's all sand.

[00:40:18] **Angel Martinez:** I mean, you could look it up on Google man, it's just bad. I, I think, I'm not saying, like I said, I think the theory behind Robinson Preserve is nice but it's just all dying out. And it's just, that's another thing with, with the flooding over there in in Palm Sola, the streets get flooded. You can see the waters just almost touching roads.

[00:40:38] **Angel Martinez:** Like when, when it's, when it's heavy, heavy, like heavy rain or, or we get like these, these like flooding before the hurricanes, the, the water's almost touching the roads and there's definitely, definitely climate change going on.

[00:40:54] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Do you think, do you think that's ultimately going to affect fishing? Or has it already those things?

[Production crew interjects]

[00:41:12] **Angel Martinez:** I think so. I think climate change is going, I think climate change does affect fishing. It just, if, if the water gets hotter, the fish are gonna move different. Growing up, the fish were going, they grew, they, these fish grew up in a, they would go in a certain pattern every year.

[00:41:32] **Angel Martinez:** And these recent years, they've just been doing whatever they want. They haven't been following that pattern that we're so used to. I don't know if the fish are becoming smarter or adapting, but everything's more, more towards like the fault of climate change. Where the fish, where, where all this hot water, cold water is meeting up and it's just more hot water is now going on to the ocean.

[00:41:52] **Angel Martinez:** It's just moving everything apart. We, I, in the recent years with the red tide too, we had to draw, go further out, catch, you know, catch fish compared to like, we'll go 20, 30 miles, we'll have to go 60, 70 miles, you know? But definitely think climate change does, does have some effect on, on the, on fishing.

[00:42:17] **Angel Martinez:** So because of all of that, how do you see the future of, of fishing, do you think? Do you think things are gonna pan out or do you think there are, there's real danger?

[00:42:30] **Angel Martinez:** I think it's just, it's a little, for me, climate change is, it's a little bit of both. It's a little bit of mother nature and it's a little bit of science behind it. It's mother, the earth has to do its thing. You know, fish move around, you know, he's always trying to shake up things up, you know, and we

have to adapt to that, you know, but we could do, certainly do things too to like not affect our own. Our own climate, you know, we could definitely stop dumping water into the ocean.

[00:42:59] **Angel Martinez:** Purify the water before anything goes down, you know, definitely there's definitely things we could do to prevent all this changing of the earth or make it affect the less, hold on the ocean.

[00:43:14] **Angel Martinez:** I mean, I'm assuming you're not married and don't have children yet, but but would you want to see your children go into fishing if when they got older or would you recommend it?

[00:43:27] **Angel Martinez:** Yeah. I mean, if it's something they, I mean, I'm not gonna push it on them, you know, they're, everybody's free to do or they want, but if fishing doesn't want something they want to do or some something they wanna try, then I'll, I'll, definitely wanna see them do, you know, fishing, cuz I'm, my dad did it, I did it, you know? I'll definitely wanna see my kids do it. In the future, hopefully we could get the whole family together and make our fishing business bigger. You know, it's definitely something I do wanna see in the future.

[00:43:53] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Are there any women in your family that, that like fishing or wanna go out with you or enter her head?

[00:43:59] **Angel Martinez:** Yeah, there's definitely women in my family that like to go out fishing. My sister she's, she's definitely in there when, when, when we're commercial she's in there. She always wants to jump in. I mean, whether if it's cold, hot, raining or not, she's always in there with, in there with me. I mean, we're always, you know, she's, she, the only other person besides me and my dad that, that likes it.

[00:44:20] **Angel Martinez:** And the only person that last in the boat, cuz she's, she's out there grabbing the fish, moving the fish around. She's out there shoveling ice, she's out there sounds like she'll drive the boat. She'll help me clear out the net. But she's definitely, she's definitely likes doing the commercial fishing stuff. It was really cool.

[00:44:36] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Does she have another job or might she join you?

[00:44:39] **Angel Martinez:** She, she, I mean, she sometimes joins me. She sometimes just tag along.

[00:44:43] **Tina Bucuvalas:** I, I mean, permanently join you.

[00:44:45] **Angel Martinez:** Oh. I don't know. I don't know if she likes to join. She, she's, saying she wants to pursue a career in like in like nursing and stuff like that. So I'll like, go ahead. I mean, you gotta follow your dreams, you know, not, but it's something, it would be nice to have my sister there, you know, but they, everybody wants to do their own thing. But that's, that's all right.

[00:45:07] **Tina Bucuvalas:** Do you all have any other questions? Have a question?

[00:45:11] **Production team:** Trying to think about how to word this. And even if it's, you may not have an answer to this, like at all, and I understand that. Is there anything, you said you're a Mexican, is that correct? Is there anything in the Mexican culture that is, I don't know, that ties you to fishing at all? Or is there anything? Cause Mexicans originally were tribal, obviously with, I get what you're saying, Mexicans, I don't wanna say Native Americans, but they, you know, they were natives.

[00:45:43] **Angel Martinez:** Yeah, yeah, yeah. So, no, I get what you're saying.

[00:45:45] **Production Team:** Is there anything that, it's part of, I don't know, your culture, your heritage that has to do with fishing that you find pride in with that or

[00:45:52] **Angel Martinez:** No, no. I get the question

[00:45:54] **Tina Bucuvalas:** And along those lines, let me ask, because I know a lot of the people in Clearwater are from a certain inland area and are actually what used to be called ultome in, you know, native Americans and everything. But I don't know if your, your family's from that area, but if they are, if you could talk about it.

[00:46:12] **Angel Martinez:** Yeah. So there's definitely, I, I guess inheritance of fishing in my family. My, my mom, my mom's from Michoacán, Mexico, right. And she's from a small group of native, native people. They're called Purépecha or something like that.

[00:46:36] **Angel Martinez:** And they're in their, one of their key things is fishing and they have to be really good in the water cuz either they go to the

left. And they fish the ocean what is it, the one of the oceans or they go to the right fish, the big lakes on the map of Mexico. And so my mom's like, you probably get it from that.

[00:46:55] **Angel Martinez:** And she tells me all the time, she's like, you probably get the, like, you know, you're fishing, you're fishing from, you know, our ancestors. And I was like, I like, come on mom. Like really? And then she's like, and I started looking my, after doing my research and it turns out that, yeah, like fishing is, is a big thing in, in that, in that, in that tribe slash group organization.

[00:47:16] **Angel Martinez:** And I, I think that's where I get the passion too from fishing is where my mom's from. They eat a lot of fish. I mean there's a little spot called Hanitiel and all they do is eat seafood there. And then my, my grandma's like, it's in your blood now. Like, you know, it's something, it's engraved in you, I guess.

[00:47:34] **Angel Martinez:** I guess it is something engraved in me, like my family's from there and then I'm just doing it. Doing the same thing they're doing, but in a different spot. Now I'm doing here out of Bradenton instead of out there in Mexico. But it's, I, I guess I'm, I, I do think it's something have to do with like my family and where they're from my ancestors being Mexican.

[Production team interjects]

[00:49:13] **Angel Martinez:** So I think one of the passions I have for fishing is because of, of where my mom's from, from she, she's from Mexico.

[00:49:21] **Angel Martinez:** Both of my parents are from Mexico. But my mom is from this little town tribe called Purépecha. And their main focus is, has to be one of their focuses is fishing. And they, and they have the ocean to one side and have the lakes to the, to the other side. And where my mom's from exactly where she's from in her town, there's definitely a lot of, a lot of little rivers that runs through there.

[00:49:48] **Angel Martinez:** And so I guess it, well, being from that tribe, I guess has something to do with me being here, like fishing, that there's a connection between my ancestors and me that has to do with my passion for fishing, you know? And I, my grandma, not my grandma, but my auntie always says, Angel, like, it's, it's part of your heritage that you have to be fishing.

[00:50:14] **Angel Martinez:** It's in your blood. And my, my mom says the same thing too. It's like, and it's like, that's why you're such a good fisherman, even though I, I don't think I am, but I try to be. But she says, oh, you're a good fisherman cuz it's in your blood. It's something, it's something you grew up with. It's part of our heritage.

[00:50:27] **Angel Martinez:** That that all of our ancestors were fishermen. And you're a fisherman too, but I think that's, that's what, what, what gives me a drive, my inheritance me being from that tribe that Purépecha, that's why I love fishing here so much in Florida where fishing capital, what I think is the fishing capital of the world.

[00:50:46] **Angel Martinez:** Just, I, I enjoy being in the water, catching fish. And this is something I love, but it is definitely something to my heritage.

[00:50:53] **Tina Bucuvalas:** So just that they're from Michoacán?

[00:50:55] **Angel Martinez:** Yeah, they're from Michoacán.

[Production crew comment]

[00:51:07] **Kristin Sweeting:** When you are commercial fisher, when you're commercial fishing, do you ever, are you ever faced with angry, angry people who don't like what you're doing? So can you tell us about that?

[00:51:21] **Angel Martinez:** So, yeah, I do face a lot of people I guess hate from people. They just see the bad side of us. I'll start off by saying the scenario.

[00:51:28] **Angel Martinez:** So one time we were coming back we launched the boat off Longboat Key, and and we were coming back and we had some fish on the boat. And there was these angry angry protesters that were like saying, don't kill the fish, or you're hurting the fish. And I was like, like, I respect everybody's opinion.

[00:51:46] **Angel Martinez:** You know, I, I respect them all. And I was like, and they were just like coming at me like, you're killing fish. You're hurting the fish, and you're doing all this to the ocean. You're hurting the ocean and all this. And I was like, and I like, Hey, I respect you guys. Just let me, you know, just let me get in my boat and I, me walk away.

[00:52:00] **Angel Martinez:** I respect you guys, but just like, and they were like, no, they need to start, like, getting in my face and everything. And then the cops had to come and they're like, Hey man, why are you harassing all these people? And then they start harassing one of my buddies boats. Like, Hey, you know, get out, get outta here.

[00:52:12] **Angel Martinez:** You're harassing all these fish and all that. And I was like, man, like, and then they're like, man, why do people, I, I think they just hate this cuz they, they just see the bad side. Like, oh, you guys are killing fish. But like, man, we're like, I say 90% of the people are not bad people. They're like really nice people.

[00:52:27] **Angel Martinez:** If you talk to 'em, you really engage with them. We're really, really nice. And you just have to talk to 'em. You know, we're, we're always willing to talk about fishing, you know, and give you an explanation, but don't, don't come in our faces like that. You know, we're just like, we're, we're trying to provide, just like you guys, you know, we're just, we have a job, you know, and we just happen to like this job. It's what we do.

[00:52:45] **Kristin Sweeting:** Can I add to that? Do you, when you get faced with those angry encounters, do you at all feel like you get it worse because you're brown or no?

[00:53:07] **Angel Martinez:** This is the same. I mean, its the same. I mean, I, I think it's the same. I think, I mean, at that moment, they don't really look at you being brown because you're all tan

[00:53:17] **Angel Martinez:** You're coming off the boat. You guys are all tan. You know, you really don't, I mean, the, the only way. I think you get it. Like I, the only way I feel offended is, is when we talk Spanish and they realize we're not really, we're not really, I guess, white and you realize we talk Spanish and kind of like get out of the way or kind of like, you know, kind of not pay attention to us no more. And that's the only way, you know, but, but yeah.

[Production crew comment]

[00:53:48] **Production Crew Question:** You said you grew up in a pretty bad neighborhood?

[00:54:00] For, for until you were three or four?

[00:54:02] Yeah, until like, I was three or four. I was pretty, pretty young.

[00:54:06] **Production Crew Question:** I was gonna ask, how do you think, if that is a, wondering what effects that would've had to about fishing or made you a fisherman? Or, or did you ever think about being a fisherman that young? Or would people in that neighborhood never think about being fisherman or, I mean, just wondering if that, if that influenced you at all within fisherman.

[00:54:37] **Angel Martinez:** Mm, I don't think so. Okay. No, but I would say what, what I'm trying to, well, my main goal in the whole fishing thing is to, there's not of Latinos, Hispanics, Latinx, whatever people wanna call it, there's not a, there's not a big market in that. There's no Hispanic taking charters people out. You know, I've seen one, one African American captain, but I haven't seen a Hispanic one or a Mexican one, you know, and I'm, I'm trying to be that one, you know, and I'm trying to make that change where I'm trying to get into the market, like where, everybody could be included in fishing.

[00:55:17] **Angel Martinez:** You know, fishing is looked as an as, basically more of a, of a white sport thing, you know? But I'm, I'm trying to make everybody become a fisherman, you know, not, I'm trying to include everybody. I'm trying to get everybody involved in, into the market. And that's, that's one of, one another thing, what made me go into, into fishing more on the charter side.

[00:55:35] **Angel Martinez:** Cause long be, I wanna include all my people in there, you know, I'm not going in there alone cuz I wanna bring everybody into that market. But that's one thing I definitely wanna do.

[00:55:43] That's great. It's totally different, I'll tell you. Cause I lived in Miami for , you know, for 10 years and they're a lot of the, the charter captains. Yeah. And people in different aspects of fishing are Cuban. Yeah. Yeah. Mostly, you know, Puerto Rican or something.

[00:55:58] **Angel Martinez:** Yeah. So, like I said, me being Mexican, I, I want to bring all my Mexican people in there, you know Miami has their Cubans, the Puerto Ricans and all that, you know, but where's my Mexican people at?

[00:56:09] **Angel Martinez:** You know, I'm trying to bring Mexicans into the market and I'm trying to bring, you know, we could do it too. You know what I'm saying?

[Production crew interjects]

[00:58:04] **Angel Martinez:** And, and in the west side of Florida I haven't met there's not really a lot of Mexican people involved in commercial fishing or, or charter businesses. So I'm trying to make that change. I'm trying to get into that business of where I'm trying to, you know, bring my Mexican people into that.

[00:58:19] **Angel Martinez:** I'm trying to involve all in, into commercial fishing or just overall fishing. You know, I'm trying to include all, all, all the Mexican people in there, cuz I mean, there's plenty of Cubans and Puerto Ricans, but I'm trying to get my Mexican people involved in there. Bring 'em along, you know, cuz if I win, we're all winning, you know, I don't, I don't, there's no envy in this.

[00:58:38] **Angel Martinez:** There's nothing. If you got a question, I'll let you know. Commercial business I'm trying to bring everybody involved into the commercial business, into the charter business, you know.

[00:58:46] **Production Crew Question:** Why do you think there's not a lot of Mexican people in the commercial fishing industry?

[00:58:50] **Angel Martinez:** I, I think there's not a lot cuz they're, they're scared. They, they're just scared. They don't wanna be they're just scared that they, of rejection. They're scared of there, there's a lot of rejection. There's a lot of nos, there's a lot of people trying to push you apart. And I fought that. I, I fought that and, and now I'm inside the circle. I feel like I'm inside the circle and they accepted me for, for what I've done and what I've, you know, all and everything.

[00:59:24] **Angel Martinez:** But there's definitely, it, it is scary. It's scary cuz you're being the only brown man in there and in the white man's world, you know? How do it's it's scary. It's scary. Like, like when I was taking my charter captain's course, I was the only Mexican one out of all, all whites. You know, I'm trying to make that change, you know whether I'm alone or with a group of 'em, I, I'm trying to make that change.

[00:59:46] **Angel Martinez:** I'm trying to get in there. I'm trying to get in into the business of, you know, bringing my people in there and I'm willing to make that change.

[Production crew interjects]

[00:01:00] **Angel Martinez:** Yeah. Hesitant slash scared where, because I was the only brown man in there. Like, you know, there's, there's, you're standing there alone. There's not a lot of people that look like you in there.

[01:00:25] **Angel Martinez:** So like, who do you, who do you look up to? Who do you, you know, I, who do you get, you know, your motivation from? There's really nobody there, but, but you, and so I'm willing to put that figure, I'm willing to put myself in there and, you know, try and make that change so I could pull everybody with me. Or they see another brown man, you know, in there, in, in the business.

[01:00:45] **Angel Martinez:** And hopefully if it's a kid or another grown adult, they see me in there that they're, they could do it too. You know, Yeah. Kind of part of the club. They could be, you know, like for me, I, I don't see color, I don't see race, but I'm just trying to, you know, if my people are scared to make that jump, then, you know what I'm saying?

[01:01:05] **Angel Martinez:** If I could do it, then you could do it too. You know, don't be scared. We're, we're all working together. We all could do this together. That's, that's how I look at it.

[01:01:21] **Kristin Sweeting:** Can you talk about how Cortez, Bradenton, Manatee County has at least like the areas where you were fishing from little to now have changed since you were a little, sorry, repetitive.

[01:01:53] **Angel Martinez:** So since the, the different changes that happened in between when I was little and now have to be just there's a lot more buildings, there's a lot more things being tore down and, and there's a lot more traffic on the water.

[01:02:10] **Angel Martinez:** I'm not saying it's a bad thing, but it's definitely changed. The mangroves, the fish migrations, the, the pattern of fish goes the, this definitely this, the, what's it called? The, the seagrass that, that's important thing to me. The seagrass. It's definitely a very, very important thing to me. It's just every year there's less and less grass and there's a lot more sand popping up.

[01:02:34] **Angel Martinez:** People don't like the grass cuz the only thing people see is they see grass. They're like, oh my feet's gonna hurt and all this, you know, but they like the sand. Everybody likes the sand, but I don't like the sand cuz where the fish gonna, you know, hide where they're gonna lay their eggs, you know, like I said, the big thing was Robinson Preserve where all that we used to be all grass and now it's all sand.

[01:02:58] **Angel Martinez:** How they try to change the the, the, the way the water runs. If the, if the water runs a certain way by nature, I mean, why are we forcing the water go through there? You know, it's all. It, it has to be natural, you know, for us not to affect, we have to adapt to nature and how nature works instead of us making nature work a certain way and it, it's all this, if we could take a little bit, like, if we could respect, not respect, but if we could preserve a little bit of nature, then it could go a long ways.

[01:03:29] **Angel Martinez:** You know, instead of us just knocking stuff down, cutting stuff up, you know, just building stuff everywhere. But, you know, we gotta protect what we have cuz if we don't protect what we have it, it'll be gone.

[Production crew interjects]

[01:04:19] **Kristin Sweeting:** Are there any misconceptions from your commercial fishing history that you would like to add clarity to?

[01:04:28] **Angel Martinez:** Oh, there's def, there's, there's definitely misinformation about commercial fishermen a lot.

[01:04:33] **Angel Martinez:** There's a lot of misinformation. I'll say. People just think of us as like ruthless killers and we're destroying the environment. We don't care that what we do with, with how much fish we got or anything, but we, all the fishermen are not bad people and we're not there to hurt the environment. If anything, we're there trying to preserve and protect the environment.

[01:04:56] **Angel Martinez:** Like, you know, we're, we're there trying to like like we, we definitely go by the rules and if we see something that we don't like, if we definitely see something that's affecting it, our, our, what? If it's affecting our money, we're not gonna hurt it, you know? And so people think, like, like I said, people think, oh, you guys are like destroying nature and, and you guys don't care.

[01:05:19] **Angel Martinez:** Like, dude, like we definitely throw all the small fish back cuz that's future money for us. You know, we, we only like to keep the bigger things or what's whatever we'd like to keep. And we're definitely like, like I said, we're not there. Like oh we're, we don't care about the environment and we're just here for the money.

[01:05:34] **Angel Martinez:** But no, we're just, definitely if you talk to fisherman, you ask 'em the questions, you'd be, be nice to 'em, you know, cuz we're humans too, like, you know, we're just like every other person. We have

jobs and that's our job. And you know, sometimes like commercial fishermen, like if they're working, they don't like to talk, they're just there to make money cuz that's their money.

[01:05:52] **Angel Martinez:** And then like who likes to talk? You know, when you're working a job, who likes to talk to you? Nobody. Cuz you have a job to do and that's something you have to do. And that's a commercial fisherman. And they're not, they're not there to chit chat. They're not there to make money and they have a job to do.

[01:06:04] **Angel Martinez:** Like that's their, there's their family's relying on that money, you know, and that's why if they're, they don't want to talk to you and that's not that they don't wanna talk to you, but they've got other things to do on the water. They have sunlight. That's not like you got an office job where you can work, you know, in the office and you can work whatever.

[01:06:20] **Angel Martinez:** And, you know, commercial fisherman have a certain time, they got a certain window cuz there's, it might rain, it might, you know, I have to go from, from Terra Ceia to, to Sarasota Bay and, and don't, and it's gonna get choppy at certain time. And I have to cross that water before it gets really, really bad.

[01:06:37] **Angel Martinez:** You know, people, you know, people get misconceptions of, of commercial fishermen being bad people, but we're really not.