

Bo Kratz

Interviewed by Jen Brown  
July 15, 2022  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Transcribed by Alyssa Lucas

**[Jen Brown]:** Okay, we are recording. This is Jen Brown. I am here in Corpus Christi, Texas. It's July 15, 2022, um, and I'm here to do an oral history for the Baffin Bay Oral History Project. Um, can I get you to pronounce your name just so it's correct for the record?

**[Bo Kratz]:** Okay, it's Warren. My middle initial is B, but I go by the name of Bo, Kratz, K-r-a-t-z. It's a good old German name.

**[Brown]:** Okay, that's what I thought. Um, so for the record, do I have your permission to record this interview?

**[Kratz]:** Yes.

**[Brown]:** Okay, thanks. Um, since this is an oral history, we'd like to start kind of at the beginning. Can you tell me more about your background and early life?

**[Kratz]:** Well, I grew up in the Midwest, and we lived on the Mississippi, and every boy, young man or young women for that matter had the access to a lot of streams and rivers around the Mississippi, and we lived right on the Mississippi, so we—fishing was very available, and a lot of boys did it, so it was—we did it with their dads or initially like I did, with my dad. He was a big fly fisherman, and he introduced me to fishing at a very young age.

**[Brown]:** And where was this at?

**[Kratz]:** This was in Burlington, Iowa. It's down on the southeastern corner of Iowa.

**[Brown]:** Hm.

**[Kratz]:** The town's still about the same size it was when I lived there, about thirty to thirty-five thousand, so it's a typical Iowa small town.

**[Brown]:** Okay, and growing up fishing, can you tell me more about that?

**[Kratz]:** What that was like?

**[Brown]:** Yeah.

**[Kratz]:** Well, it was getting up early in the morning with my dad, which was special because I had him all to myself (laughs), which is always good, but we started out fishing for bluegill and crappie and stuff that was more my size, but of course he fished for bass and even trout and stuff in northern parts of Iowa, but it was always exciting to get up early in the morning before anybody else was up, and that was a part of the thing that I enjoyed about it.

**[Brown]:** You can keep going. I'm just going to adjust this.

**[Kratz]:** And he had a—my dad had a plaque, which was on the door to the basement, which I memorized because it was always right there when I was eating. You could see it, and it was—my dad said it was from the Bible. He said, “You can find this in the Bible. I think it’s in Leviticus.” He said—this is what it said, “Behold the fishermen, he rises up early in the morning, ye he disturbth the whole household, mighty are his preparations, he goeth forth full of hope and when the day is far spent, he returnth smelling of strong drink and the truth is not in him” (both laugh).

**[Brown]:** Did you ever find that in the Bible (both talking at once)?

**[Kratz]:** Which is not in the Bible, but it was a good story.

**[Brown]:** So, um, what happened after you got older?

**[Kratz]:** Uh, when I got older, well, my dad died at a very young age. He was just fifty years old, so I was fifteen, and so I was kind of largely on my own as far as fishing, and he left me with a lot of fishing equipment and two or three boats, and I really kind of started doing everything on my own and had friends, and we, buddies in high school and stuff, we fished together and everything. That’s what we did, and got in a little bit of trouble, which makes it interesting (both laugh), but we had a—I still maintained contact with those guys today. We’re still high school buddies, and we get together and turkey hunt and do things together.

**[Brown]:** Hm, and you mentioned you went to University of Missouri?

**[Kratz]:** Um-hm, in Columbia, Missouri, I majored in wildlife conservation for two years but then I found it a little bit too demanding academically for a farm boy from Iowa, so I changed my major to business because I just couldn’t take the zoology courses. They were just nine zoology courses and most of them I couldn’t even pronounce, but I thought I wanted to be a game biologist. I wanted to study and, you know, estuaries and rivers and everything and come up with viable working plans for maintenance of the same, but I didn’t go that direction.

**[Brown]:** So, how do you get from Midwestern fisher to down on the coast and a saltwater fisherman?

**[Kratz]:** Well, that’s interesting because when I came down here, I brought a lot of freshwater lures because as you know, bass fishing you didn’t use, well, you could use but most people

fished with lures, so I brought down a whole box of all kinds of fishing lures, and when I met people down here who fished in saltwater, they said, "Oh, those will never work. Those will never work down here. Those are freshwater lures, freshwater lures," and they were totally wrong because I used lures that worked up there, and I started using them in the Laguna Madre when I met a guy who had a boat. Once you meet a guy who has a boat, it changes your whole life and then you have to have one, and it's changed even further and then you might even be single, but normally if you have a good wife, she'll stay with you when you buy a boat (both laugh).

**[Brown]:** So, when did you first come down here?

**[Kratz]:** Uh, 1964, something like that, about 1964.

**[Brown]:** And what brought you down here?

**[Kratz]:** Um, I came down here to go to school. The school was called Texas A&I back then. It's now Texas A&M-Kingsville and came down here to go to school down here because my parents had moved down to the Valley [Rio Grande Valley]. They played golf, and they wanted to play golf year round, so you can do that in the Valley of Texas, so that's what brought me down here.

**[Brown]:** Okay, and so you went to—what was Kingsville like back then?

**[Kratz]:** Kingsville was just a very nice small town, a college town, and a lot of good people, and I joined a fraternity and met some guys who had lived down here a while, and they were big fishermen and hunters and stuff, and I, of course, fit right in with them and met a guy named James Foster who had a boat, and we fished—that's who I started fishing Baffin Bay with. He had a great big twenty-foot boat (both laugh), had like a one hundred and fifty horsepower motor. Can you imagine?

**[Brown]:** So, that was big for the sixties?

**[Kratz]:** Yeah, that was big, that was a big boat, and that was a Baffin Bay boat. I mean, Baffin Bay was always known as a potentially rough water. It can get really rough out there, and you needed a little bit larger boat if you're going to fish a lot in Baffin Bay. Of course, now they use shallow running boats, and they run them back in the shallows while we were always running down the channel, the Williams Channel right down the middle of Baffin Bay, which is wide-open water.

**[Brown]:** Um-hm, so do you remember the first time you fished Baffin Bay?

**[Kratz]:** Not really, um, back in those days, we fished with shrimp, used live shrimp under a pop and cork, and it was pretty much the staple way of fishing, and we caught fish like a lot of the guys that you've interviewed that are older that you caught fish by the hundreds, and there was

no limits, and there was no size limits, there was no number limit, but there was so many fish we thought, “Oh, they’ll never establish a limit on fish, size, or number. They’ll never do that because trout are just so numerous. That will never happen.” We were wrong, and there were big fish as well, a lot of big fish in Baffin, which is the mystique of Baffin Bay anyways, big trout. That’s the whole story behind Baffin Bay.

**[Brown]:** That kind of gets to my next question was what do you think makes Baffin Bay special?

**[Kratz]:** Well, it’s funny you mentioned that because I was looking—I’ve tried to find a map or a chart rather, an old chart. It looks something like this that I probably got thirty years ago and on that chart of Baffin Bay, which is what we looked at because we didn’t have electronics like you have now. We had charts that were pretty accurate and, on that chart, there was a little asterisks in the middle of one of the pages, and it said, “Beware, there are many uncharted rocks, rock formations, and underwater impediments in Baffin Bay.” In other words, you leave the channel, you’re on your own, and you better know where you’re going because there still are lots of rocks in Baffin Bay. Well, technically, you know they’re not rocks, but that’s what we called them, was rocks, but the fishing was very good as long as you knew where you were going. We bounced off a few rocks in the process (both laugh). We learned it by, what would you call it, by props. We tore up props, so that’s how you learned Baffin Bay back in those days, but anyway, those charts looked like this and then they moved upward into these charts that had a little—they were more colorful, and they had little fish marked on them, which would show you, if you didn’t know where to go, it would show you the depth of the water, and it would have a—occasionally, there’d be a good fishing spot, and they would mark it with a little, with a little—I’m going to break this whole thing open, mark it with a little red fish on it, and so that was kind of helpful. That was pretty, you see the little—

**[Brown]:** —Yeah—

**[Kratz]:** —fish markings here and up in here. Those are places where somebody put these charts together, and it was really helpful and helped us learn Baffin Bay without tearing up too much equipment.

**[Brown]:** So, what does Baffin Bay mean to you?

**[Kratz]:** Baffin Bay means to me, means big trout, yeah. People have come from all over the country to fish Baffin Bay for a big spotted or seatrout or what do they call them? Um, speckled trout we call them or specs. That was the mystique of Baffin Bay is big trout. That’s what people came down here to do, and we use large lures for big trout. Um, I’m sure some of the people you’ve interviewed have probably told you about the broken backs and the big floaters, superspooks, and stuff like that that you used because big trout were drawn to big baits. The theory is big bait, big trout, but that’s not necessarily always true, but that’s what we fished with a lot was something to catch a big trout.

**[Brown]:** How big are we talking to catch these big trout?

**[Kratz]:** How many what?

**[Brown]:** How big, like what size?

**[Kratz]:** Back in those days a big trout would be around thirty, twenty-eight to thirty inches long. That was a big trout, and the state-record was held by Mike Blackwood. You might have heard his name, and I know Mike. It was held for many, many, many years, but I can't remember what the dimensions were on that trout, but that's the thing about Baffin Bay. You go down there to catch a big trout. Now, it's kind of a neat feeling to get out early in the morning before the light is coming up on the east hardly, and you're getting out of your boat to wade fish, which is all we did, was wade fish, and when you get out of your boat, and it's still dark, and you wade off (laughs) into what you think is the right area and throwing those big baits and just waiting for one of those big sow trout to come up there. You know they're all females, and we call them big girls, to wait for a big girl to come out. Some women might take offense to that (both laugh).

**[Brown]:** Well, if they are female trout (both talking at once).

**[Kratz]:** No offense was intended.

**[Brown]:** Um, can you talk more about the tackle you used, and the type of fishing that you did and how that's changed over time?

**[Kratz]:** Um, I used spinning because that's what we used in the Midwest and after a few years I switched over to bait casters, and you're able to handle larger fish a little bit better with a bait caster than at least I can then rather use a spin reel, but the spin rod, spin reel combination is easy for a beginner to use so consequently a lot of people started out with that. You have fewer backlashes, and it's really pretty simple and that way you can introduce it to children and stuff, and they can learn how to cast, and that's what I did with my son, and we met a lot of people and did a lot of fishing together.

**[Brown]:** Um-hm. Can you tell me more about some of these big fish and—

**[Kratz]:** No, I can't tell you because it's a secret (both laugh). No, some of the people that you have interviewed, and you've mentioned some of the names, now, those guys caught a lot of big trout but like I say, I was just a beginner, and we caught quite a few big trout. I would say, I just remember the excitement we'd have when somebody would catch a big trout, we knew we were in the right area, you know, because you don't catch just one sometimes, you have three or four guys, and you're wade fishing, you know, it kind of picks the excitement up, but we caught a lot of big trout on broken backs, Cotton Cordell broken backs, which was a black and chrome. It looks like a great big mullet, I think, and trout just come up and crush those things and take it down, and they add two big treble hooks, so it really was hard for them to shake it

once they hit it. But I caught a lot of big trout, but it doesn't matter that much to me anymore, the big trout thing. Yeah, I get excited when I catch one, but I'm not targeting big trout. I target the experience. I enjoy fishing more than just looking for a big trout and numbers of trout is always fun.

**[Brown]:** Um, what do you think your most memorable experience about Baffin Bay is?

**[Kratz]:** Most memorable, I would say being on the south side of Baffin and a front came in, which we didn't anticipate, and the water got really rough. We had to put on lifejackets, and I thought this could be life-threatening, getting back down—we were down Los Corrallos, which is kind of in the middle of Baffin Bay, and we had to come out to the east and back to the north to get out of Baffin, and I had a twenty-foot boat, but it wasn't big enough that day, and we took a lot of water over the bow, and it was pretty scary, so I gained a lot of respect for Baffin Bay that day. We got out obviously and didn't lose the boat or any of its participants so (laughs).

**[Brown]:** Successful.

**[Kratz]:** Successful trip when everybody gets home and nothing's broken.

**[Brown]:** Um, can you talk about the changes that you've noticed to Baffin Bay over time?

**[Kratz]:** Well, just the pressure that Baffin Bay is under. Like I said, when I first started fishing, Baffin Bay was considered a sanctuary where few would go into to. You had to be very careful as you moved around a lot of rocks and maybe you don't even want to go there because if you don't know what you're doing, you can get in trouble so consequently myself and a lot of people, we kind of shied away from Baffin Bay. We'd only go in a little ways, and we didn't try too many places because we respected it a lot, but as you get a little more confident, you start—but now you have guys that run these shallow running boats, and they run right across these bars and stuff that we used to always have to maneuver around, and they still tear up some equipment, but there's just a lot more pressure. There's a lot more people fishing, there's a lot more guides, there's a lot more fishing tournaments, which creates a lot of people on the water, but it introduces people to fishing, which is a good thing, good for the state and good—but that's the principal difference I would say, and there's a little bit of difference in the quality of Baffin's water. We noticed that the grasses were not as thick. From the time we started, we used to walk in along edges of very thick lush grass, and I was just down there the other day, and we waded for a long ways and couldn't find hardly any grass anywhere, and that kind of makes me wonder if maybe the water quality has dropped to a very low ebb, and I'm glad they're—it looks like they're doing some things about it, and I know probably some people won't agree with me, but the introduction of croaker fishing is—I'm a plastic guy. I use artificial. I feel like the main reason a guy goes fishing is to use deception to get a fish to hit, and you make something, or you make a lure, or you buy a lure that looks like a fish, but you don't throw a croaker out in front of them because they can't take it. It's like candy. It's candy for a baby. They're going to take it, so that's not really deceptive for me. I like it when I fool a fish

into hitting my offering when it's not real, and that gives me greater satisfaction than using a shrimp or croaker, but there's a lot of guides that use croaker, and they catch an awful lot of fish, and I'm glad the limits are down to three and as far as the red and being in the slot and everything only three. I think that's going to help. As far as I'm concerned, big fish should all be released. Anything over whatever the state would require a good-sized fish should be released, carefully released.

**[Brown]:** What about in terms of changes to the fish or crabs and shrimp? Have you noticed anything in that regard?

**[Kratz]:** You know, I couldn't say that I have but like I say, I haven't done any science, and I'm sure that the Parks and Wildlife has done a lot of science in that because it's all a part of the ecosystem as we know it. The crabs are just as important to Baffin Bay as drum as trout as flounder, and they're all important in that system, and if you neglect one, you do that to the detriment of the others involved.

**[Brown]:** Um-hm. Um, some people have mentioned the freezes in the past and some of the other events—

**[Kratz]:** —Um-hm—

**[Brown]:** —as changing the bay.

**[Kratz]:** Um-hm.

**[Brown]:** Have you—did you experience any of that?

**[Kratz]:** Oh, absolutely. We had some very strong freezes. This more recent one we've had didn't compare to the ones we had like in '89. We had one in '83 where on the south side of Baffin Bay there was a white line on the south side of Baffin Bay, from a distance you could see it. It looked like foam but what it was, was dead fish stacked up on the south side of Baffin Bay, and we, after the freeze of '89, I did not catch a trout for two years, and we were trying to find a trout, see if there was any, but they slowly came back. You could catch redfish. Redfish are tough. They can handle it. They come back really quickly, but those freezes were just, were just devastating. This most recent one we had appears to have not been as bad as maybe what some of them have predicted because it seems to be recovering very quickly, which is great.

**[Brown]:** Um-hm. Um, let's see. What do you think success looks like in terms of current efforts to restore and conserve Baffin Bay?

**[Kratz]:** What success would look like?

**[Brown]:** Yeah.

**[Kratz]:** I think it would be successful if, oh, maybe I shouldn't say it, but I'd like to see fewer guides on the water, maybe limit the number of guides that can fish in a particular ecosystem or estuary. You can only have so many because they kind of dominate, and it's for the sake of Texas and for recreational fishermen as well but without really planning to dominate, they do just by their presence, and I wouldn't argue with a guy who was trying to make a living, and I think we had, this one time it was close to four hundred guides in the Laguna Madre between here and all the way up towards Seadrift and all that area and back down toward Mansfield, and that's an awful lot of pressure on those fish every day. Some of these guys, out of 365 days, they may be out on the water as many as three hundred days a year and taking clients, and that's a lot of pressure on our fishery, a lot of pressure on the trout to handle that kind of effort that they put in. Um, I think something needs to be done to kind of bring that down to a more reasonable level, and I think that would help the overall life of the fishery for the future generations, and we've got a lot of young boys and girls that are fishing now, which the pandemic really helped because people were tired of being in the house, and so they bought boats and took the kids fishing, and I see a lot of that on the water. I think that's very healthy, but the day, the day, the day after day of catching unlimited trout for you and your customers just puts—and they know how to do it. They're professionals, so they're very effective at it, so they take large numbers of fish.

**[Brown]:** That kind of gets me to my next question is, how do you think we can get younger generations to want to be stewards of Baffin Bay?

**[Kratz]:** Well, I think steward is a great word because we have been given that responsibility from the beginning, from Adam and Eve. Adam was asked, God said, "You're going to be a steward of this. I'm going to give this to you, but you're going to be responsible for it," and I think to get young people involved in it, I think you could have something in the elementary schools where you could teach outdoor stuff, camping, fishing, doing what you're doing, kayaking. That sort of thing will introduce people to being out on the water, and it's such a healthy environment and tell them to leave their electronics at home except for what's on the screen that gives them an idea of where they're going, a GPS system and all that, but I contend that every young boy, and I've seen young girls as well. I've seen every young boy and a lot of young girls at a certain age want to go fishing whether their dad fishes or not, whether their mother fishes or not, they have a curiosity for it, and they want to go. If you can take them at that time and introduce them to it, it's a lifelong thrill for them. I just see a lot of kids that go out, and they can't think of anything better than to go fishing and of course like I said earlier, it's kind of like being with your dad or your uncle or everything. It's a very bonding sort of thing. It's a great place to—and you talk about things out fishing that you don't have time when you're at home. You get out with your dad or buddies and everything. You have time to talk about it, and you get to see the sun come up and thank God for it.

**[Brown]:** You mentioned bringing your son out, can you tell me more about teaching your kids how to fish?

**[Kratz]:** Uh, I would say that he just—I have a son, and in fact my daughter is coming down

Monday to fish with me. She's fifty, I think, something like that. I never thought I'd see the day that she'd want to go fishing with me, but now the last few years, she comes down, and she has a great time. We fish in the boat, and she just has a blast. I never thought that would happen, and my wife's going to, so it's an estrogen imbalance (both laugh), but it'll be three of us on the boat, and I'll be running around like a chicken trying to keep everything in order as they're trying to take my hat off with every cast, but I introduced my son to fishing, bought him a small rod that he could easily handle, so he's not frustrated. That's one thing with kids. You got to give them something that's—don't give them big equipment and ask them to do too much. You teach them to go out and catch a pin perch. We do that at our church. We have what we call Kids Fish Day and little kids come out, and we had these little short reels that looks like something you'd ice fish with, and we put a little piece of shrimp on it, with its little tiny hook, and we go out to the T-Heads, and we fish off the edge, we throw a little piece of shrimp out there to get the pin perch coming up in there and then you just drop a line. They just have a blast pulling those pin perch out one after another, but that's an easy way to start them at a very early age and plenty of snacks. If you have plenty of snacks, they'll be happy (both laugh).

**[Brown]:** You've clearly done this before. Um, I wanted to also ask you a little bit more on, it seems like your conservation ethic's really connected to your religion, you know, you were talking about being a steward of the environment.

**[Kratz]:** Yes, yes.

**[Brown]:** Can you tell me more about that and how that evolved?

**[Kratz]:** Well, I guess I have a sense of where things were when I was younger to where they are now and are we doing—I'm asking myself was I a part of doing a better job of taking care of things? I haven't been actively involved in being a part of that except I just been, observation of a few things such as we used to have trout lines up and down the King Ranch shoreline, which ran all the way out, and it was commercial fishing for trout and drum and redfish, and they took a tremendous amount of fish out of the Laguna Madre but surprisingly enough it could handle it, but it took a lot to get that stopped, but when it finally got that cleared up where you could run down the shoreline without running into any trotlines, it would hit you about—hit you in the neck if you weren't watching.

**[Brown]:** Oh, really.

**[Kratz]:** Yeah, and it had hooks on it, and if you were running in the dark or you weren't watching where you were going, you could run into an elevated trout line, which is just barely above the water and dangling these baits, and you run into it. Anyway, but being a good steward, I think means to only take the fish that you need, don't take a whole cooler full of fish or even try to put a bunch of fish in your freezer, which end up many times being freezer burned, and you don't eat them. The best thing to do is to take only the fish that you need and the fish that you intend to eat, which is really good if you cook them in that same day, but that's being a good steward, I think, is realizing that you can impact the fishery even being just a

recreational fisherman. You can have an effect, and when you take people out, you tell them, “Hey, we’re only going to keep”—or like David Rowsey does where we’re not going to keep any fish. We’re going to catch, photo, and release. I applaud that. I have a theory and people say, “Well, did you keep any fish?” And I’ll say, “No, no, we’re not keeping them right now. We’re going let them spawn.” “Oh, man” everybody says, “You’re crazy. Why don’t you take—” We get plenty of fish to eat the rest of the year, but I have a theory that when you take a nice big trout that you could take home and eat, when you release that fish, and you see it swim off, you say to yourself, “That was satisfying. That was a reward that I saw that fish swim off. If I ate that fish, it wouldn’t be nearly as rewarding.” It’s good, but it’s not as good as watching a fish swim off and knowing that you have released life back into the water. It’s a little—I don’t know. A lot of people don’t look at it that way, but that’s the way I look at it. It’s the biggest thrill to do that as to eat it. I guarantee you.

**[Brown]:** Hm. I think those are all the questions I had. What did I miss? Do you want to talk about anything else?

**[Kratz]:** Well, I hope that that your tribe increases, that there’s more people who care about the fishery and the history that goes into this area including Baffin Bay and the Laguna Madre. I hope there are more people like you who give a rip about it and want to see that it’s maintained properly and steward, being a good steward of it, so that the future—you hear it all the time, “The future generations, future generations,” well how about doing it right now, make sure that we have the things that we have, and we maintain them properly, and I think guys like Scott Murray have been instrumental in trying to educate that. I think guides can be the arm of the education. They can go out, and they can tell people what’s important and how many fish we’re going to take and how we’re going to fish, maybe we’re just going to go boat riding and maybe we’re just going to take pictures to enjoy the outdoor experience but anyway I think guides and game wardens don’t have time to educate, maybe they can go into schools and do some training. I don’t know, but I think the guides are going to be the principal arm of education for the future because there are many of them, and they meet a lot of people who are novice fishermen, and they can teach them a lot about what’s important and what’s not, and I hope they’ll take advantage of that and not just go for a meat haul. We call it a meat haul or fill the cooler (Brown laughs). Those days should be long gone. We should never do that again. Have you ever read—I’m going to give you a book. Have you read this book?

**[Brown]:** Yeah, not for a long time but (laughs)—

**[Kratz]:** Oh, you want to read it, or you’ve read it before?

**[Brown]:** Yeah, all of it.

**[Kratz]:** Yeah, it’s a really neat book.

**[Brown]:** Hemmingway’s *The Old Man and the Sea* for—

**[Kratz]:** —Yeah—

**[Brown]:** —the audio.

**[Kratz]:** Yep, *The Old Man and the Sea*, but that's what I am. I'm seventy-eight, and my goal is to be able to wade fish Baffin in my eighties. I'd like to make it. I still got a few more years on this frame. I'd like to still be able to do that, and I get kind of emotional about it.

**[Brown]:** I hope you will be able to fish it.

**[Kratz]:** Yeah, yeah. Cookie and I are still going out. Of course, he's a human dynamo. He's an Eveready [Energizer] Bunny. He just has all this energy, but, heck, he's like sixty-four, sixty-five. He's just a kid (both laugh).

**[Brown]:** I thought you were younger actually.

**[Kratz]:** No, I'll be seventy-nine here pretty soon.

**[Brown]:** Oh, wow.

**[Kratz]:** But thank the Lord for good health, and he's given me some really good years. The Bible says, "Three score and ten," which is seventy is kind of a promise, so I've gotten that and more, so it's been good, and fishing's been a big part of it. It really has. It's been a big part of my life, kind of, if you will, almost defines me in many ways.

**[Brown]:** How do you mean?

**[Kratz]:** I think most fishermen are gentlemen. Most fishermen should be gentlemen. My dad always taught me it's a privilege to get out and to do that, and it takes skill. You can't just—a fish won't respect a sloppy presentation. They only respect, and they reward you for—prepare, use your equipment well, and you take care of it, and you think about what you're doing, and you plan, probably do more planning than you do when you're working. You know, you plan those trips and stuff, so I think it's a good training for kids and stuff when you're bringing them up, take care of your equipment, make your bed in the morning, do things like that that are seemingly silly but, in the end, the reward is good. The benefits are very good. But like I told you before we started the interview, I'm really not a scientist. I'm just an acute observationist. I observe things, and I make my own theories based on that, but most fishermen are good people, and they're the kind of people I like to be around, even fishing guides (both laugh).

**[Brown]:** All right.

**[Kratz]:** You can edit that out if you want to.

**[Brown]:** Um, anything else?

**[Kratz]:** Nope. I can't think of anything.

**[Brown]:** Well, thank you very much. I'm going to turn this recorder off.

**[Kratz]:** Okay.

(end of recording)