INTERVIEW WITH [redacted]
Q=[redacted]
A=[redacted]

Q: Today's date is March 29, 2018. Time now is 1810 hours, uh, this is special agent [redacted] and I'm sitting with [redacted] of Anacortes, Washington. [redacted] are you aware this is - interview is being recorded?

A: Yes sir, I am.

Q: Do you have any issue with that?

A: I do not.

Q: Do you have any questions before I begin?

A: I do not.

Q: Kay. So we're just going to start off with some pretty basic stuff, uh, about you so I have a little biographical - about you.

A: Okay.

Q: What's your date of birth?

A: Uh, [redacted]

Q: Um, and uh, how long have you lived in the area?

A: I've lived in the area approximately 12 years.

Q: Twelve years. Uh, and you live in Anacortes?

A: That's correct.

Q: What's your street address?

A: Uh, [redacted].

Q: Okay. And then, uh, it's my understanding that you used to work for Cooke Aquaculture, is that correct?

A: That's correct.

Q: Did you start off with them or were you part of the system when they were also, um, American Gold Seafoods and...

A: I was part of the system prior to Cooke Aqua's ownership.

Q: Okay can - let's go back and talk about that. Let's start off with that. When did you start?

A: Um, I started in [redacted]

Q: Kay. Who owned the net as of that point?

A: At that point it was, uh, under the name American Gold Seafoods and owned by Icicle Seafoods.

Q: Okay. Did you used to - did you know ([redacted])?

A: I knew of ([redacted]

Q: Okay. Okay yeah. I think he was a partner in - not that this is relevant at all but - just that I remember that American Gold Seafoods was [redacted] baby...

A: Yeah it was.

Q: Yup. For a while.

A: For a while.

Q: Um, so then you were part of AGS and then you went over to Icicle when they kinda started running the show.

A: I believe that - that sale had just happened or was finalizing when I started.

Q: When you started okay. Then eventually it transitioned into Cooke in like 2016, is that right?

A: Um, that is correct yes.

91 Q: Okay, so then, um, what- what- what did you start off as - with them?
92
93 A: Um, uh, beginning I was entry level.
94
95 Q: Okay.
96
97 A: Um, so I had no experience in fish farming per say, at that time. Um, I began
98 as a quote un-quote walk way worker. Um, so I was being trained, uh, from
99 the ground up.
100
101 Q: Okay.
102
103 A: Just doing basic generally labor, um, tending, feeding, uh, regular duties on
104 the farm.
105
106 Q: Of the Atlantic Salmon?
107
108 A: Of the fish correct.
109
110 Q: Right okay. Was it always Atlantic Salmon out there?
111
112 A: It was yup.
113
114 Q: Okay. Uh, before I continue on that part. Uh, can you give me your
115 educational background just while we're at it.
116
117 A: Um, I, uh, graduated Highschool. Highschool diploma. I went for, uh, three
118 years of college in [redacted] and then left there, uh, to make my way
119 up here.
120
121 Q: Got it. Okay. And then let's go back to your employment. Then you started
122 off as a walk - walk way worker is that right?
123
124 A: Correct. Entry level no - no experience.
125
126 Q: Sure and then, uh, moved up to the next position. What was your next position
127 there?
128
129 A: Um, my next position was, um, site supervisor.
130
131 Q: Okay now for a site is that the, uh, the entire net-pen or is that a section of or -
132 how's it work, can you explain that to me?
133
134 A: So if you're familiar with Cyprus...
135

Q: Yes.

A: ...in particular there are three rafts we call them...

Q: Yup.

A: ...it's like site one, site two, and site three.

Q: Okay.

A: So all three sites are considered The Cyprus Facility. However they are broken into site one, site two, the one in question, and site three.

Q: Okay got it. So at that point where - which one were you in charge of?

A: I was site two raft supervisor.

Q: Raft supervisor okay and how long were you in that position?

A: Um, approximately a year.

Q: Okay.

A: Maybe.

Q: And then where did you go?

A: From that point I went to Fish Health Tech. Uh, so that, uh, that included some, um, included some outside training by some fish veterinarians that had been working with the company. Uh, and what not, uh, my - my duties in that roll were monitoring fish health taking regular tissue samples, um, checking behavior etcetera. Uh, coordinating - coordinating with, uh, departments and agencies and at least submitting my - my, uh, field reports.

Q: Right.

A: From what I found. To either - up my chain of command.

Q: Was that for all of - all of just Cyprus or was that for the entire Cooke operation here.

A: Just Cyprus.

Q: Just Cyprus. So you were - each- each site or not site but each like Cyprus it's self has the three sites and it has, uh, site supervisor on each?

A: That's correct.

Q: And then you were overseeing the three nets as the health person?

A: That's correct.

Q: For the fish. Right okay. And is there any other positions besides those three - four there?

A: Um, uh, prior to raft supervisor I was trained as a diver.

Q: Okay.

A: Um, the company paid for all that training, uh, just open water certs and then I got some advanced certs, uh, deep water diving, limited visibility etcetera. Um, uh, so a lot of my job entailed diving early on that was - that corresponded with the raft supervisor. So while doing raft supervisor duties I was also a diver, um, responsible for those - those tasks. Uh, fish health - as I moved into fish health, um, my diving duties decreased a little bit.

Q: Sure.

A: And, um, after fish health I, um, let's see after the fish health training I was promoted to the job of assistant manager. Um, of the facility itself so all three facilities.

Q: Yup.

A: That was under ([redacted]). He was the facility manager and I worked, as, a, assistant manager for him for two - two plus years or so. Until he, uh, left the company. At that point, um, I guess I was next in line. I was promoted to, uh, facility manager.

Q: Which means you were in charge of all three - overseeing all three of the - as in Cyprus.

A: That's correct.

Q: Got it okay.

A: And at that point, uh, that was my current role until my departure.

Q: Sure. Let's, uh, who was your supervisor - you said ([redacted]) until you were promoted. Who was your supervisor once you were promoted?

226
227 A: ([redacted]).
228
229 Q: ([redacted]). Okay. And how long did you work for [redacted])?
230
231 A: Oh, um, um since well - my - he was my direct manager when I took the
232 position of facility manager. Prior to that when ([redacted]) left - er, prior
233 to ([redacted]) leaving my chain of command was ([redacted]).
234
235 Q: Okay and then was [redacted]) in charge of ([redacted]) then too?
236
237 A: That's correct.
238
239 Q: Okay so he was - you were underneath him but just a different level in the
240 company.
241
242 A: Correct.
243
244 Q: Got it. Okay. Now who, uh, so ([redacted]) is in charge - if you were in charge of
245 Cyprus is [redacted]) in charge of multiple spots, is that what this is?
246
247 A: ([redacted]) was the general manager of the, um, um - well - towards the end the
248 Cooke Aqua Pacific division which was the Cyprus farms, Hope Island
249 Farms, Bainbridge Island Farms and Port Angeles Farms as well as the
250 hatchery. Um, so he was the General Manager overseeing the entire operation.
251
252 Q: Okay.
253
254 A: I believe that was his, um, that was his capacity. From his hire.
255
256 Q: Sure.
257
258 A: Um, and so I - as I stated I was in charge of the Cyprus facilities reporting
259 directly to him.
260
261 Q: Right. Who did he - who did he report to in the company do you know?
262
263 A: Um, initially he reported to [redacted]). Who was [redacted] of Aqua
264 Culture for, uh, Icicle Seafoods.
265
266 Q: Okay.
267
268 A: Um, at the time of the sale to Cooke, um, shortly after that ([redacted]) left. Um,
269 I'm not clear as to who he reported to after that.
270

Q: That's okay. Is ([redacted]) [redacted]?

A: No he is not.

Q: Different [redacted]

A: Different [redacted] yes.

Q: Oh, okay got it. All right so you were there for - as the site manage for how long roughly?

A: Um, let's see I believe it was, um, I'm not exact on my dates but I believe it was, uh, in the area around August in 2015 - it was fall 2015 I believe when...

Q: Sure. That's close enough.

A: ...when um, when, um, ([redacted]) left. I took over. Uh, officially shortly after that, um, and, uh, was there uh, until my departure.

Q: When did you leave?

A: Um, my - I left in October of 2017.

Q: Okay, so after...

A: No I'm sorry, I'm sorry - restate that. The end of November 2017.

Q: After the accident - the second accident obviously.

A: That's correct.

Q: All right. So, uh, you were the raft supervisor during the entire time frame when we were having the - when the net-pens were having- when that net-pen was having trouble.

A: I was the facility manager. Uh, through the entire time yes.

Q: Okay got it. Uh, so let's get into the discussion of - of the net-pen itself. How old were these net pens roughly? The structure not the nets themselves I know those change in age all the time because they are being changed out but the structure itself do you have any idea how old they were?

A: Um, I have a very vague idea.

Q: Okay.

A: I know that site three was the newest site. Um, it was approximately six years old.

Q: Okay.

A: I believe, um, site two and site one were of similar age. I beli- I can't speak to an exact date.

Q: Okay.

A: But I know that they were, a, considerably older than site three.

Q: All right, ah, can you give a description of how would you describe the condition of the structure during the time frames you were working on?

A: Um, site one and site two, uh, were - were in a, uh, state of, um, they were definitely toward the end of their life.

Q: Okay.

A: Walkway conditions were rusty, um, we were using materials to patch holes in the walkways, um, uh, there had been some reinforcement done to some of the walkways where, uh, cracks and deterioration had been noticed. Um, so they were - they were in a stare of repair.

Q: Okay. Now I know that they were scheduled to be - or that number - let's concentrate on number two but number two is scheduled to be excised or taken out of the system in the coming year at some point correct.

A: That's correct.

Q: Um, when did you, uh, start noticing, or if you did, cracks in the system. In the structure of number two?

A: Um, I can't - I can't speak to an exact date.

Q: No that's fine.

A: Noticing those I do know that during my tenure as assistant manager while ([redacted]) was in charge, um, there were some cracks noticed in the exterior walkways of site two. And, uh, some repair work was done. Um, uh, without a lot of details some strapping was put in.

Q: Right.

A: Some x-bracing was put in.

Q: I have a - a - actually I have it out in the truck - I'll go get it here in a minuet, but I have some pictures we can talk about. So I know in 2015 the cross bracing was put in as I've interviewed the man who did the welding on that.

A: Okay.

Q: Um, and he said that was to alleviate stress cracking and things like that. Do you feel that that worked?

A: Um, for a period of time.

Q: For a period of time.

A: It appeared to yes.

Q: And then so I know those were done in 2015 and I'm not going to pin down on what exact date because I don't remember myself but in 2015 that bracing was done and then it - how long a period of time do you think that that worked before things started going bad again?

A: Um, that appeared to, um, be structurally sound until the event.

Q: Until the event.

A: To the best of my knowledge.

Q: Okay all right. So then, uh, uh - let's get into talking about the structure or the nets themselves. There is obviously, you know, in in estimate of 305,000 fish roughly inside those things at the time of the incident. Um, how are you cleaning those nets?

A: Um, there were several different methods of net cleaning. Um, uh, our main method was in Situ net washer. Uh, meaning the nets replace or remained in place hanging in the cages with the fish inside them. Uh, the net cleaning machines themselves were of a couple different varieties but with the same, uh, basic idea. It was a high pressure jetted water system so there was a pump and a powerpack that was stationary, uh, on the system, ah, and it was fed through a hose to a wash head. We had a five-disk unit. Which means five high pressure disks spinning.

Q: That's the MPI correct?

A: The MPI that's correct.

Q: Right.

A: Um, so that was our main method.

Q: Okay.

A: Uh, that was manually or with the assistance of a winch lowered and raised along the net walls. Uh, we also had a smaller unit of the same sort of design that was an (Edema) washer. Um, that an Aqua (Edema) washer it had, uh, uh, like I said same basic design, but it had, uh, twin disk head so just a smaller path.

Q: Okay.

A: Um, we also had for some time a Stingray cleaning unit which was a hydraulic - a hydraulic disk head so instead of high pressure jetting it was an actual, um, for lack of a better term they were wheels with knuckles on them that actually agitated growth and debris off of the net itself.

Q: Let's talk about each one of those in order as you describe them here.

A: Okay.

Q: The MPI has the five heads uh how effective in your opinion was that on cleaning?

A: Uh, it was quite effective.

Q: Quite effective. Okay.

A: When, uh, operational quite effective.

Q: Right. We'll get into the operational part of it. So let's just talk about a couple of things that grow on there. Obviously, there was seaweed.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: There's shrimp - I can't think of the name of what they call that.

A: Oh, um, hydroids.

Q: Yeah.

A: They are hydroids.

Q: Yeah exactly. And then there is mussels.

A: Mussels of course.

Q: Obviously. How does the MPI do against all of that stuff? Is it pretty good or does it have good stuff and bad stuff? How does it work?

A: Um, the - the MPI worked great on probably 90 percent of biofouling.

Q: Okay.

A: Um, muscles included when the mussels were small it was quite effective on it. If - once mussels begin to set, um, and they were large thick sets of them.

Q: Right.

A: It - its effectiveness decreased.

Q: Okay. How - let's say you said like 90 percent - it can handle 90 percent of that stuff. If it was, uh, large amounts of large mussels what's - what would you say its effectiveness is on that?

A: Um.

Q: I know you're not a scientist just a thought about...

A: Right, um, all I can say to that is when we did encounter areas of uh, of - of progressed growth. Large mussel sets, um, it would take multiple passes or take more time to clean that net.

Q: Okay.

A: So instead of allowing for one pass and it being and it um being clean - deemed clean...

Q: Right.

A: ...it would, uh, the net cleaning itself would take longer and may mean multiple passes however each pass - each pass, um, each pass, resulted in, uh, decreasing the amount of fouling so as you make multiple passes it...

Q: Got it.

A: ...would kind of chew through it.

Q: Okay. Let's talk about the edema itself how did that do?

A: The (Edema) was similar to the MPI, uh, in effectiveness and operation with the exception of the fact that it had, uh, a smaller...

Q: Path.

A: Footprint or path.

Q: Right. Right okay. How did the stingray do?

A: Uh, the stingray was very effective. Uh, especially on heavy growth. Like mussels. It was our go-to.

Q: Yeah, I saw it. It looks like it has almost blades on it.

A: Exactly yeah. Um, it was effective in that it was actual, uh, mechanical disturbance of the muscles.

Q: Right. Okay.

A: Um, up and - and extreme fouling like that so it was, quite effective.

Q: Um, on a - I don't know a lot about net-pens but obviously on a net-pen you're going to have an inside and an outside.

A: Mm-hm.

Q: And then you're going to have your predator net out there as well to keep - and that surrounds the entire contraption, right?

A: That's correct.

Q: Does the MPI or any of the cleaners go on both sides of the pred net - excuse me the - the fishing net itself?

A: Uh, generally no.

Q: No okay so it - it only goes on one side. Which side does it go on? The side of the fish or the side of the outside?

A: The inside. The side with the fish.

Q: Inside with the fish okay.

A: Correct.

Q: Now when you, uh, are running that machine and it goes down on the inside of the net is it also taking care of stuff that's on the outside of the net?

A: Uh, to a degree.

Q: Okay. But a limited degree?

A: Uh, uh, a limited degree.

Q: Okay so if you had - let's say you had a large square that had a lot of muscles in that square some inside some outside. It will clean the inside obviously will it clean some of the outside or?

A: It would clean some of the outside.

Q: But not 100 percent.

A: It would vary depending on the - the growth.

Q: Right is there a way to get the MPI and or any of these machines between to do the outside of the net?

A: Um, it would be possible.

Q: Okay. Was it done?

A: It was not done.

Q: Okay so only the inside is being done during cleaning?

A: That's correct.

Q: Okay now you have also on the outside the predator net. Which goes down and goes around and just completely seals it off from large animals getting in, correct?

A: That's correct.

Q: Uh, was that ever, uh, used with the - was the MPI or any of these ever used on the predator net itself?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay. Was it inside?

A: Outside.

Q: Only on the outside.

A: Correct.

Q: Okay. Uh, and the inside - same kinda deal?

A: The inside would be considerably more difficult to try to address than even the outside of the fish pens.

Q: Got it.

A: Which they would both be an extremely difficult.

Q: Because they are both together there basically or close to each other.

A: They are together on the perimeter but even on the interior on the walkways, uh, there's is rigging. The walkways themselves do not allow for a gap it would be, uh, a very difficult operation.

Q: Sure, when you, ah, clean the inside of the fish pen and the outside of the predator net do you still see material between the two. You know um - biofouling between the two? You know, like on the inside of both there's - where you cannot - you're not cleaning there is going to be material - were you ever able to get that off of there?

A: The biofouling, off of the material?

Q: Yes.

A: Um, um, again depending on the fowling.

Q: Right.

A: Depending on the fowling the effectiveness of the washer would clean the outside of the cage - the outside of the cages. Um, and - and thought through routine cleaning you could eliminate some fowling on the outside yes.

Q: Okay. So, uh, when you did the - the cleaning itself you do, uh, obviously you have four walls in a rectangular shape in each pen and then you have the

outside and then you have a bottom. You don't have a top obviously, but you have a bottom, correct?

A: Correct.

Q: Does the bottom get done as well.

A: Um, we address the bottom, uh, as best we could.

Q: Okay, could you give me more?

A: Yes. So - so, uh, generally the best way to address the bottom, um, would be with divers - actual divers down there with actual pressure washers. So pressure washer wand and divers going across the bottom. Um...

Q: On the inside with the fish?

A: On the inside of the net with the fish. Um, if you can picture using a pressure washer wand and just cleaning it. Um, that was, uh, time consuming.

Q: Sure.

A: Labor intensive of course. Um, there were methods to address the floors with the MPI, Stingray, and Edema units.

Q: Sure.

A: Uh, that was well was a slow process and time consuming. It involved actually raising one side of the net itself and, uh, allowing the MPI or (Edema) head to run down the floor or physically sending the head to the bottom and having a diver pull it across the bottom.

Q: Okay so you're in charge of - of the net pen for a couple of years there. In that time frame how often do you think that the bottom of that net was cleaned?

A: Um, I don't recall how often the bottom of that net was cleaned. Our main focus was the walls.

Q: Right. So it - give me a guess - let's say a year or six months - how often within that time frame?

A: Um, in a six-month time frame, uh, let me state this.

Q: Sure.

A: So when we received our fish they were stocked into small pens.

Q: Yeah.

A: Which is a different net itself. Smaller mesh.

Q: Of course.

A: Um, after, um, after a certain amount of time once the fish were large enough that there was no, um, no risk of - of escapement through the larger meshes, um, we would swap the nets with a grow out net.

Q: Okay.

A: Kay. Larger mesh more flow.

Q: Right.

A: That allowed us to start after about after a six or eight month approximately period that allowed us to start with another clean net.

Q: Sure.

A: At that point, um, walls were the main focus, uh, floors were hit on a case by case basis.

Q: Okay. So on net-pen number two. Your new fish your schmaltz came in roughly the middle of 2016, right?

A: That correct.

Q: Okay. So the nets got changed out for them obviously. Shortly their after because they're getting big. You got to move those - to get more flow you got to get a bigger net.

A: More flow. The nets themselves are deeper so there is more volume.

Q: Exactly 'cause they are going to get - fish are going to get bigger and there is bigger space that way. I get that.

A: Correct.

Q: Uh, so the nets are changed out in 2016, right?

A: That's correct.

Q: So you have. Let's say roughly a year between, uh, uh, the nets being changed out and the incident in August. How often do you estimate that floor was done at that time?

A: Um, I can't say that all the floors were done completely. Uh, at any time.

Q: Okay.

A: I know that we were addressing issues as they arose as well as addressing other sites.

Q: Sure.

A: Uh, that had other issues.

Q: No I understand that part. Okay well we've come back to that, uh, let's talk about the equipment themselves - the three pieces of machinery now you said earlier that - they worked and were effective if they were working.

A: Correct.

Q: Can you give me some description of what you're talking about on that?

A: Um, we had mechanical issues. Um, through the Summer of 2017. Um, spring. Uh, early spring and through the summer. Uh, I know one of our - one of our MPI units was down for, um, a bit of time. Um, I don't recall exactly but a substantial amount of time. That unit was shipped down to Seattle for repairs and was gone for quite a while. Um, we received an Edema unit, uh, that had some minor mechanical issues. That kept it - that it was kinda hit and miss.

Q: Right.

A: When it was running. Um, when it was running as well as the Stingray, uh, was functional for the majority of the time. Uh, some minor issues that would cause it to be down for a few days or a week at a time. But for the most part we could get that back up and running.

Q: Okay so, uh, how - how long - let go - let's do this - how many cleaners do you have for the Cyprus system?

A: Um.

Q: While you were there anyway.

766
767 A: While I was there we had, um, we had one - we had two MPI units for a
768 period of time. Uh, the (Edema) came in after the fact. After one of our MPI
769 units went down...
770
771 Q: Okay.
772
773 A: ...I believe, um, and the Stingray we had - we had the one Stingray. And we
774 had that for several years.
775
776 Q: Okay so the - e- there was equipment assigned just to the Cyprus. So pardon
777 me - the three net pens themselves were being cleaned by the same equipment
778 it's not one MPI and one Stingray at net-pen two?
779
780 A: No that's correct.
781
782 Q: They cover that entire Cyprus system.
783
784 A: That's correct.
785
786 Q: Uh, was there ever a time when you had to lend those out to other areas?
787
788 A: Uh, there was a time. Uh, when they were shared.
789
790 Q: Okay and that was shared between how many, uh, net-pen systems?
791
792 A: Um, it was shared between all the all the marine farms.
793
794 Q: So.
795
796 A: So for instance if they needed one - there was an emergency somewhere else
797 and they needed one...
798
799 Q: Sure.
800
801 A: ...and we had one or it was deemed we were well enough ahead that one
802 maybe taken and shipped over to another location.
803
804 Q: How many other marine farms are their like Cyprus? In the system here.
805
806 A: Um, well there is Port Angeles, um, its two rafts. I believe approximately 26
807 cages I forget.
808
809 Q: Okay.
810

A: Um, Hope Island which is a one raft system of ten cages. And then Bainbridge Island had two systems, no - Bainbridge Island had multiple systems under the Bainbridge Island umbrella. Which was Clam Bay and Orchard Rocks for Orchard Rocks.

Q: For Orchard?

A: For Orchard Rock.

Q: Oh Orchard Rocks. Oh okay I know where it's at - For Clam Bay. Those are both under Bainbridge I got ya. So there is four total with Cyprus.

A: Four total marine sites yes.

Q: Okay.

A: Cyprus included.

Q: And sometimes you'd have to share that equipment with other sites? Was there ever a time where you had to bring equipment for your site?

A: Yes.

Q: There was. And is that because of equipment being down or is that because of growth problems or?

A: Either one.

Q: It could be either one.

A: Yup.

Q: Okay. All right, uh, when you're - let me ask you - this is more of a technical question but you're out there on the raft and your looking around how do you know that the nets are getting befouled can you see it?

A: Um, to a certain degree you can see from the surface. Uh, visual cues.

Q: Just to the naked eye.

A: To the naked eye. I mean, uh, uh, granted, uh, visibility in Puget sound is not the greatest. Of course.

Q: Right - right.

A: You can only see so much depending on turbidity and - and what not, um, but you - you there were plenty of indicators, uh, that I guess someone could use to tell if it's getting fowled.

Q: Can you give me some examples?

A: Um, um the growth of kelp. So bull kelp itself usually grows on the surface. Um, grows rapidly in the spring. So there's that. And if you could - if you could see - if you could see mussels setting in from the surface. One could assume that they were setting in below.

Q: Are you familiar with the time frame that it takes a mussel to grow?

A: I'm not.

Q: Okay. Just wondering if you - in your bio stuff you did stuff like that. Um, how often do you check the nets for bio-growth?

A: Um, the divers, uh, would report back on a routine basis.

Q: Okay.

A: Um, they were divers generally two to three times a week were entering every cage, uh, to check, uh - to check cage by cage. I mean net - to check net integrity.

Q: Sure.

A: Uh, as well as remove dead fish. Check fish behavior and see if there is anything down there.

Q: Okay.

A: So if - if they were observing, a, substantial growth they were reporting that.

Q: Okay all right, um, uh, what's the regularly - regular schedule for the cleaning of a net-pen?

A: Um, there wasn't. There wasn't necessarily a set schedule.

Q: Okay.

A: Um, our operating schedule was we would work - we would work - we had 30 cages total. Uh, with uh all sites included.

Q: Right.

A: We would start on one site wash through those nets. The - the unites would move to the next site. Wash through those and move to the next when we finished the last cage they would return to the beginning.

Q: In that time - oh - go ahead.

A: So it was - the attempt was just a constant cycle.

Q: Sure in that time frame. Let's say you started on one, went through two, went through three and then headed back to one. Would you have a lot of growth by the time you got back to one?

A: Um, that would depend on time of year.

Q: Okay let's say summer time.

A: Summer time it could be a - it could be a good bit of growth. Summer time is when the growth, um, um...

Q: Water's warmer.

A: ...grew the fastest. Water's warmer, uh, longest photo period.

Q: Yup.

A: Right. So.

Q: Okay. All right. Um, what is Cooke's policy on cleaning? Is there a schedule they set, how's it work?

A: Um, I don't recall a set schedule. Um, uh, to the best of my knowledge it was to do whatever you could to keep the nets clean.

Q: Okay so I was just you're in charge, handle it kind of thing?

A: Do what you can with what you have, yup.

Q: Okay all right. Did - obviously, I know they had net-pens - excuse me net cleaners. Were those cleaners owned by the company?

A: Yes.

Q: Okay they are not leased or anything like that?

946
947 A: No.
948
949 Q: Okay. So on a - on a job like that were you are in charge of all three site pens.
950
951 A: Mm-hm.
952
953 Q: Uh, uh, who's in charge of doing the cleaning?
954
955 A: Um, those - that was given to various crew members.
956
957 Q: On each individual site?
958
959 A: On each individual site.
960
961 Q: Okay.
962
963 A: Correct. Uh, the staff itself for Cyprus for instance, um, there were - there was
964 a raft supervisor for each site. The rest of the employees tended to, um, they
965 weren't set employees for one raft.
966
967 Q: Oh okay.
968
969 A: By that I mean they didn't stay on that raft and never go here or there.
970
971 Q: Sure.
972
973 A: If the task needed 'em here so, um, you know, they would - they would all the
974 duties were shared.
975
976 Q: Sure.
977
978 A: Um, several individuals, um, most of the crew was trained one way or the
979 other on the net washing units so we had, uh - had a pool of guys.
980
981 Q: That knew what they were doing.
982
983 A: That knew what they were doing for the most part. Yup.
984
985 Q: Got it. Uh, uh, how often would you think that one or multiple of the net
986 cleaners were out of service?
987
988 A: Um, frequently. Frequently.
989
990 Q: Okay.

991
992 A: Um, they were, you know, um, they were they were, um, um, it's a
993 complicated piece of equipment. It required a lot of attention, um, and so there
994 were definitely times when it was running you know below 100 percent
995 effectiveness or was down.
996
997 Q: And, uh, let's talk about the time frame in which we know uh some events
998 occurred there. Uh, we know a first event happened in July of 2017.
999
1000 A: That's correct.
1001
1002 Q: Towards the end of the month. And, uh, prior to that time frame going back to
1003 let's say January, six months roughly. Uh, how often were they down in that
1004 six months or were they working at all? Were all of them working how - what
1005 was going on?
1006
1007 A: Um, there were - there were various mechanical issues in that period. Um, I
1008 cannot state exactly how may were down for how long.
1009
1010 Q: Right but there was there was some problems during that time frame?
1011
1012 A: Yes.
1013
1014 Q: Do you believe that - that the mechanical difficulties that the machines were
1015 having and not having in place caused excessive growth at the time?
1016
1017 A: Um, it made keeping up with that growth challenging.
1018
1019 Q: Okay. Because you also had to mind the other two pens as well. With the
1020 same equipment.
1021
1022 A: Correct.
1023
1024 Q: Okay. Do you happen to remember in the month or two before that how many
1025 pieces of equipment you had operating?
1026
1027 A: Um, it varied.
1028
1029 Q: Okay.
1030
1031 A: And by that, I mean - as I stated the Edema washer had some minor issues to
1032 begin with. Uh, those were able to be remedied on site. Um, so then it was
1033 operational again. Um, the Stingray as well has some minor issues those were
1034 able to be remedied on site. Um, and our MPI, had some issues. Uh, one of
1035 them quite major to a point where it had to be shipped to, uh, Seattle.

1036
1037 Q: So right, right before July the MPI wasn't even in the net pen area there?
1038
1039 A: It was for a period of time.
1040
1041 Q: Okay.
1042
1043 A: But in the lead up to the July incident we were having mechanical issues. And
1044 we were washing them.
1045
1046 Q: These mechanical issues are these things you can fix or does somebody else
1047 come in and fix them?
1048
1049 A: Um, we would, uh - uh, we would attempt to do everything we could in-
1050 house. Um, uh to the best of our abilities.
1051
1052 Q: Sure.
1053
1054 A: And uh, and if it was not able to be handled, um, we would, um, we would
1055 request them to be repaired - either an outside source or we did have a Marine
1056 Maintenance Manager. Uh, and his job was far reaching, uh, for all four
1057 facilities. And it was he was, um, he was my contact and the contact for the
1058 other farms when we had these issues.
1059
1060 Q: Excuse me, when you had these issues what was his turnaround time in
1061 coming to assist roughly.
1062
1063 A: That varied...
1064
1065 Q: Okay.
1066
1067 A: ...depending on what he was already dealing with.
1068
1069 Q: Was it - would you say that most of the time it was quick. Most of the time it
1070 was average or below average?
1071
1072 A: I would say it was as quick as he could get to it.
1073
1074 Q: Okay. And what was his name?
1075
1076 A: Um, ([redacted]) - ([redacted] - ([redacted]
1077
1078 Q: Okay. So let's talk about the July event. So I know toward the end of July - I
1079 think it was like the 24 of July. Uh, the net-pen begins to have an issue is that
1080 correct.

1081
1082 A: That is correct.
1083
1084 Q: Can you describe for me. Were you actually there?
1085
1086 A: Um, I responded, uh, within approximately 2 hours of the event.
1087
1088 Q: In fact let's wait for a second real quick.
1089
1090 A: Okay.
1091
1092 Q: We're going to go off record for just a quick second while I grab some
1093 records.
1094
1095
1096 The transcript has been reviewed with the audio recording submitted and it is an accurate
1097 transcription.
1098 Signed_____