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Louie Zimm [00:00:10] It's very fortunate. You know, we're just happy to be looking here at this picture of Walter Munk, Scripps scientists back in 1960. He and Roger Revelle, hired my father to work at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. What happened was that they first before they built the buildings at the University of California San Diego, they actually got the scientists in and they gave them positions right there on the beach. So one of the perks was that we could walk out on the on S Isle Pier, Scripps pier. So at nine, I was actually eight and a half. You can go out and fish on the pier as one of the members of the junior oceanographers. So every day during the summer, my brother and I would walk down the hill and go out and fish on the pier and then have lunch with my dad and Walter Munk and all these famous people. And which was interesting because it affected my career strongly later on. So that's my first fish was actually when I was eight off the beach because I wasn't allowed on the pier yet. And it was a Jacksmelt.

Louie Zimm [00:01:26] We used both. We would use lures to catch mackerel and then we cut the mackerel up and used it for bait.

Louie Zimm [00:01:39] The biggest change I've seen is access. Is the restriction of access to fish, fisheries, particularly for children, for kids. A perfect example is Scripps pier when I was 12 years old. They decided it was too much of a insurance problem to to allow the public to walk out. The public used to just walk out on Scripps Pier and talk to the scientists, talk to little kids, and they shut it down so we could no longer fish there. And then when I was in high school, the first Marine protected area came in in that area so then I couldn't fish off the beach. That was that was all gone. And then just nine years ago now, maybe 70 percent of the coast of La Jolla now is closed to the shore fishing and much, much of the off shore fishing. I have seen it in Florida visiting my relatives there, the, the lake that I've been fishing for 15 years there. On one side, there's a big sign saying private lake, no fishing, no access. Violators will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. Oh man it's terrible. So I went home and then the next morning I said, I want to see what's on the other side of the lake at the visitor center. I went over the visitor's center and of course no signs at all so I went ahead and got my kayak and fished. You know? That's a really big problem. The fisheries regulation has done a lot of good things. I actually think in a lot of cases, fisheries are in a much better situation than they certainly were in the 70s. But the access is getting tougher and tougher. You know, you think you think about poor kid on a bicycle. You know, I'm going to go fishing. Sorry. So many places are closed. You can't do it. And that's I actually went to a city meeting and the MPA stuff for Del Mar and I pointed out I said you got a lot of kids here that like to go down this beach and fish. They like to get on a bicycle and go down there and keeps them out of trouble. And the lady that was the supervisor actually said, "well, they're just going to have to get on a bicycle and ride farther." I thought that's so sad. So that's the big change. You know, the waves of fish come and go, especially when you're in Southern California where we depend on fish coming up from Mexico, and certain fish species, certain fisheries get overfished. And then regulation usually comes in substantially late. And so you have to wait 10, 20 years, but then we see fisheries rebuilt. So I think we're doing a good job rebuilding fisheries. But as far as making it easy for the kids to get out. That's really a worry. And so what do the kids do? You know, I'll go fishing on my little telephone. So they may not be fishing on the little telephone. They may be doing something else. Yeah. And so fishing led me to, you know, to a career in running oceanographic ships and finally on to this regulatory body that I'm on. So all those things have if I hadn't been allowed to go fishing on Scripps Pier or hadn't been allowed to go fishing the way it would be for a kid growing up there now, probably wouldn't have gone that way in life. Would've gone to something else.

Louie Zimm [00:05:23] So what happened was my father had my my great grandfather's double ended rowing dorrie, and he, he wasn't a fisherman. He didn't like to fish. Only fish he ever got was he hit a muskellunge over the head in the Thousand Islands and then felt really bad about it. But he loved to eat fish.

James Thull [00:05:43] Is it Minnesota, I'm guessing.

Louie Zimm [00:05:45] Well no, Thousand Islands, New York.

James Thull [00:05:48] Oh, OK.

Louie Zimm [00:05:48] Up there. And but he, we had this rowing skiff and he would take the skiff down, when I was, I started when I was about 14, and let me take it to the surf out into what is now a marine protected area. And I would fish and then I was surrounded by oceanographers. Where we lived was where all the oceanographers lived and they all wanted to fish. So I started selling the fish when I was 14 for a dollar a pound. For like I catch that bonito or barracuda or whatever and filet it up and go around. So most people have a newspaper route, I had a fish route. Oh, gosh, when I was maybe 16, no, probably 17, Warden told me, you know, you need to have a commercial fishing license to do that. And I went oh. So I got my commercial fishing license and then started doing the same thing. Selling to markets, I went off to school somewhere else for a year. But all I wanted to do was fish. And I was dating a lady that was a daughter of a tuna fisherman here. So I had my career mapped out to be a tuna fisherman and came back and rolled the skiff in the surf and was almost killed and decided it was time to get a bigger boat. So I did get a bigger boat and ran out of Mission Bay and I was able to pay for most of my college. My father, my parents had a deal. They said they would pay for my books, but I had to pay for everything else. So I wound up catching these mostly these groundfish bottom fish and selling them to the local markets all the way up until I graduated. During the summer, I was able to work on the the bait barge which you went to this morning. Did you go to the bait barge?

James Thull [00:07:48] Oh yeah, yeah yeah.

Louie Zimm [00:07:48] Yeah. It was my first Social Security job probably when I was 19. And so it was a time when there was very little regulation of groundfish here in San Diego. And the local some of the local Italian fleet decided to start using gill nets. They've been using gill nets for White Sea bass before, but they decided to put those gill nets much deeper. And I think probably there was suddenly the gear available to do it. And they put the gill nets all over all the reefs in the deep water. And so the fishing went from pretty good for a small boat handline fisherman where I can make one hundred dollars a day or something, you know, down to really scrape to make \$20 couldn't do it. So I went, uh, I was working on the bait barge. The boat came up and needed somebody. And I said, well, I gotta go ask my parents and blah, blah. And then the next day I walked on one of those commercial sport fishers, very much like the premier. But it was an overnight boat and I started doing that. And within a year, I had my first captain's license. So we really that was you know, we really had a big decline in groundfish here because of the lack of regulation. Which all along the Pacific Coast this happened. Year 2000, 2000, 2002 was declared actually a fisheries disaster. And most of the areas that you groundfish were closed and 75 percent of commercial fleet was put out of business up and down coast. So, you know, early regulation could have precluded this terrible fishery disaster we're just climbing out of now and I was actually part of it. It's interesting. So then eventually I progressed in

commercial sport fishing fleet and I bought the boat that I showed you. And I ran that for seven years. But I kept, I had connections with people at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. And I actually got a contract to take their divers and scientists out on my boat scuba diving. And I did that for a couple of years along with the sport fishing. And we commercial fished off the boat. It was allowed back then you could commercial if there wasn't passengers and there was something running like tuna you could go out and fish. So we did. All the way from here or up to Morro Bay. So a few years of that and a couple lawsuits of people falling down and I started getting kind of sick of it, and the assistant director of SIO Scripps said, well, they're looking for a mate on the research boats. And maybe, Louie, you ought to go over there and check it out. So I did and I wound up getting hired. And then a month later, they came to me and said, you know anybody else who'd like to do this? And so I hired my mate off the sport fishing boat, got somebody else to run it, which was, which started out as a disaster. Eventually, work, worked out and then I sold the sport fishing boat. Bought my first house. And so I spent, I think, 24 years running the ships there until my father got Parkinson's. And I can no longer go out for 60, 70 days at a time. And then, unfortunately, I met my wife on a fishing boat out of San Francisco, and she loves to fly fish. She's not much for the other kinds of fishing but she loves to fly fish. So we've been married now 31 years.

Louie Zimm [00:11:40] It is, you know, and I would tell my scientists on board when they when we were working really heavy weather and they said, we've got to keep working, you know, I've got this grant et cetera, et cetera. And I said, look, you have one accident and the whole thing stops because that's the way it is. It's reactive. Yeah. And that's that's really a shame. Well, we have something saying in the council world called red light, green light. Were it's really easy to put a red light up to stop. Takes years to open up a fishery. You can stop. You can stop a fishery in a month. Usually takes about four years to open up again. So red light, green light. That's a perfect example of that.

Louie Zimm [00:12:34] There are seven councils in the United States. I could hazard to name them all and probably miss one so they'd be offended, but all the way from Maine, all the way around up the Pacific Coast and Alaska and even out in the Pacific. Mariana's, Saipan, Hawaii. There are separate councils that regulate federal fisheries. So what are federal fisheries? Federal fisheries are a general fisheries that take place outside three miles. Generally, states regulate the fisheries inside three miles. However, there are a lot of exceptions. Where it's been deemed that the fishery is mostly outside of three miles or there is some habitat that's really important outside of three miles, the federal's have a tendency to take it over. But it's funny, whitefish, for instance, are regulated by the state. Scorpion fish that you caught right next to it, regulated by the feds. So when the Magnusson-Stevens Act was passed in 1976, I think it was, you know, there was a lot of jockeying around who is going to control what. And in Florida it's a nine mile limit. And now you're you've seen if you follow fisheries news and fisheries politics, a big to-do over red snapper and the feds are giving back to the states the opportunity to regulate red snapper, kind of they're kind of backing away and see if the states can do it, because the states have been so upset with the federal regulations, big politics.

James Thull [00:14:20] So so just so I'm clear. So if the federal government can can trump trump, trump the state and say we're going to regulate this species regardless of where it is?

Louie Zimm [00:14:32] I wouldn't put it that way. I would say that the states and the federal people have talked it over over time. And it really depends on the particular case. It's very clear when you have a fish like a tuna, well, that's an internationally regulated fish.

However, we attempt to regulate it when it comes into federal waters after two hundred miles. It's not very clear when you've got a whitefish that you caught, not the white fish you catch in Montana, which spends the stock, spends most of its time in Mexico, 70 percent of his time in state waters. But the juveniles and all that are floating around in federal waters. So it's really something the people have to work out. And it's worked out so far at levels higher than me. We'll see. We'll see if something changes.

James Thull [00:15:35] But once you're at least three miles off the coast, it's only federal regulations that apply. Is that?

Louie Zimm [00:15:40] So some of it is federal and state in coordination. So what happens is we'll spend like seven, eight months discussing. Every two years, we spent seven or eight months discussing what the stock status is of a popu... Of a stock with population of fish and then deciding what the appropriate rule should be for it and decide that on the federal level. And then the state comes in and has to go through a process and look at it and see whether they agree with it. And then they'll put it in their state rules. So it's actually both in federal and state rules. Yeah. And there are certain particular fish that have to be regulated really quickly. In other words, let's say a, halibut a Pacific halibut or a yellow eye rockfish, they try to keep very close track of it. And so the state has come up with regulations that allow them when they see a problem to shut it down for the season without going through the federal process. And it's really interesting because like this last summer, there was one fish, state can't shut that down. They don't have anything that says. And so we're spending hours looking. Can the state shut that down or do we have to shut that down? Can we do it now or it's gonna take two months? Well, by the time two months is up, it'll be really a problem. It's complicated. And, you know, we, I have have tons and tons of stuff to go through. There's a code of federal... Federal regulations is where most of our federal stuff is. But there's also the state regulations. And I don't necessarily have to know all the laws, but certainly have to know where to find it within about ten minutes.

Louie Zimm [00:17:40] There are cooperative agreements. So there is a federal office of law enforcement. Unfortunately, there's only like four of them on this coast. So it's impossible for them to really do anything. I mean, they can track down cases and maybe get big cases like somebody selling tons and tons of tuna where they shouldn't. The Coast Guard is involved in it. They can do it. And then there's about 100, I think 140, 150 state wardens for a state of God knows many million people. Yeah. The enforcement is is the job those guys have is just really tough. They're they're underequipped, undermanned, really gums down to fishermen gotta have honor and follow the rules because it's the right thing to do. They if you want to break the rules, you probably do it for years, without getting caught. Now, in a case like me, I break one rule and that's it. I'm off. All these councils have lost all of my reliability, you know. Well, that's Louis Zimm. He's guy stole that lobster. Don't listen to him yeah. So they're very strict as far as actually the regulators cannot be anybody that breaks the rules.

Louie Zimm [00:19:10] Magnusson-Stevens Act 1976 was a response to Polish, Russian, Japanese, Korean vessels coming in and fishing, the Georges Bank off of Massachusetts and Maine. All along our coast here. Inside the 200 mile limit. And really, really depleting the fishes, fish stocks. So when the Magnusson-Stevens Act passed, the first thing that was done was setting up these co-ops where the Americans had to catch the fish, but then they transferred over their nets to the big factory trawlers from the other countries until the Americans were able to build their own big boats. So over time in about five years, we bit by bit excluded all foreign fishes, fishers from our 200 mile limit, which is interesting

because we're still not actually recognizing the law, the sea, the 200 mile limit because our navy wants to have unimpeded passage. And so if you fully recognize the law of the sea the navy would have to ask permission to go within 200 miles of most countries. So we actually in Congress haven't passed the law to see it, but we've used parts we like. And that's that's one of the big things. Now, what happened, of course, was then the federal government financed a lot of big building to replace the foreign fleets with fleets that are just as big as ourselves. Well, the foreign fleets were already overfishing and depleting terribly. And so then we wound up doing just the same thing the foreign fleets were. And the real tragedy of it is that most of the fish wound up going overseas. Wasn't wasn't even by us? Presently, 90 percent of the fish that's caught the United States is exported. Currently, 90 percent of the fish that are eaten in the United States are imported. We got a real problem and we're going to have to change.

James Thull [00:21:33] Is it based on species, taste?

Louie Zimm [00:21:35] Tastes. You know, a lot of the fish that are exported or fish that Americans, they're more rich type fish. And most Americans think that a white meat fish is a good eating fish, a fish that doesn't bones, etc. So something like a cod or a pollock or something like that. Whereas other cultures, well, you know, other cultures will have other ideas and have been forced by by tradition and happenstance and availability to be able to eat other kinds of fish. We have to learn here. Mackerels, for example, on the East Coast, people eat mackerel. On the West Coast. I really don't think there's much difference. I mean, if you look at it genetically, there's a difference. But I don't think meat, same different. Nobody will eat a mackerel here except immigrants from other countries and they love mackerel. I'm giving away mackerel all the time. I use mackerel for bait for tuna. The end of the day, I got them. They're fresh while they're alive. And I take them to my all my immigrant friends and that they love them. So United States has citizens of United States have to learn how to eat different kinds of fish. And it's happening, but it's happening very slowly. And of course, the answer, what's happened is your basic fish, basic staples, tilapia. That's a light meat fish. That's easy. It's always in good distinct portions, easy to serve. Etc., etc. Most of it comes from Vietnam or other parts of Asia. Actually, there are some tilapia farms in the United States, but yeah, so it's it's a cultural thing and I think you're going to see a shift. Sardine is a perfect example. Most of the sardines that are caught off the United, off the West Coast, though, this fishery is closed right now because the stock is low for natural reasons, is either used for bait to fish, long lines for swordfish or to feed bluefin tuna in Australia or shipped to Portugal where they love sardines. Spain eats sardines for breakfast. There's only you can have a sardine for lunch in Monterrey, and that's probably it.

Louie Zimm [00:23:59] In just the last year or two, there's been regulation on the federal level passed that fish from other countries has to be trackable, trackable and the other countries have to comply with laws similar to our own fishery laws. Very hard to enforce, but we now have the first attempt to do that. So that if we can get other countries to act responsibly to regulate their fisheries the way we will it will be a good situation. The situation in the United States now is most of our fisheries are recovering or if they're not recovering, it's because of natural causes, not because of of fishing pressure. The rest, the world's not that case at all. A lot of lot of parts of Asia and the Mediterranean and parts of Africa, the fisheries have been terribly depleted. But it's not all the case. Like in South Africa, the sardine fishery is recovered and doing really well, but it's heavily regulated. So what we need to do is is to continue these, co-operative regulations so that their governments actually enforce their own. I mean, they have the regulations, but they don't enforce them. I mean probably not in they can't. No attempt at all. So that's going to be a

really important thing. Now it is as far as native species and parks and such like that. Well, number one, there are very few freshwater commercial fisheries. The only ones I know of are in the Great Lakes. And of course, the Great Lakes have gone through terrible environmental shifts and changes with the introduction of fish like that.

James Thull [00:25:56] They're almost a manufactured fishery now. Right?

Louie Zimm [00:26:00] Yeah. Well, it's just that there's been so many imported species into the Great Lakes that it's radically changed. And you went through the Alewife explosion and then the introduction of salmon and lake trout going away.

James Thull [00:26:16] Grass Carp.

Louie Zimm [00:26:16] Now you've got grass carp threatening to come up. And of course, grass carp would be a wonderful commercial fishery, except that people don't think it's good to eat. Well, the rest of the world loves eating Grass Carp. Just you just have to learn. I mean, obviously, the park systems over the years have been really, really good. The big problem, of course, it was in the 19th century, bucket biology. As as as people came up from the East Coast, just as they did when they came from England to United States to Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand. They wanted to bring the world as they knew it with. And so they brought all these species. So the Sierras up in the higher waters is full Eastern brook trout. A lot of the Sierras on the East Coast didn't have any any trouts at all. You know, one of the most famous counties for fishing is Mono County, where Lake Crawley is. And I think there are some cutthroats maybe in one little corner and there were some whitefish, but there were no trouts there at all. Sacramento perch in the Central Valley for the most part has all been replaced. Matter its funny, Lake Crawley's where the Sacramento Perch are now instead of the Central Valley. So, yeah, bringing carp west to feed the train gangs. You know, every pond is full of carp. Now there's carp in the places you don't want them to be. In Montana, Pike, classic example. You had a real problem with Pike there.

James Thull [00:27:51] Well, we've got brook trout and rainbow and brown and none of those are native.

Louie Zimm [00:27:55] None of those are natives. The only native is your cutthroats.

James Thull [00:27:58] Cutthroats, Grayling, Bull trout.

Louie Zimm [00:28:00] Oh the Bull Trout. We used to have Bull Trout in Northern California. Same deal. So, yeah, what what what part can we play now? Well, the big part we can play now is not do your own bucket biology. It's still happening. People still bring well look at look at smallmouth in Idaho. They're all over the place now. And I love to catch them, but they're not the natural fish.

Louie Zimm [00:28:35] In national parks is the be the Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, which is not part of the Department of Commerce. It's the part of the Department of.

James Thull [00:28:47] Interior.

Louie Zimm [00:28:47] Interior. A Fish and Wildlife officer sits on our council but cannot vote. You can only advise and he's very good. He does advise. And his concern usually is birds. So I do have to say that salmon are federally regulated fish.

James Thull [00:29:10] Okay.

Louie Zimm [00:29:11] Idaho is one of the states on the Pacific Council. Very thoughtful, considerate, great biologists. And you think, well, they don't have any coastline. Well, they've got all this salmon going up. So what we've got on our council is Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California. And salmons a biggy, and it's one that I don't have much experience with. And I'm studying it really hard. I'm going to have some webinars on it real soon.

Louie Zimm [00:29:50] Yeah, of course, it's very hard to regulate migratory fish. And then you have to get into international agreements. It's interesting that people are buying NGOs or buying beats to help salmon where as the big problem generally is, it's they'll catch by offshore fisheries and not actually the problems. I mean, you can regulate, say, its catch and release only or or the season is very short and stuff like that. But to actually buy the stream rights, it seems like that the forces, the stakeholder from concern with the fish. If you can't go fishing for the fish, you're only going to hear about the fish as a concept.

James Thull [00:30:47] Are you speaking to Iceland.

Louie Zimm [00:30:48] That's because Iceland.

James Thull [00:30:49] I think it's its commercial fisheries and its offshore.

Louie Zimm [00:30:52] Oh.

James Thull [00:30:52] That they're buying that, you know, they would make X amount of dollars fishing this year. Don't fish. We'll pay you X amount of dollars.

Louie Zimm [00:30:58] Oh, I'm sorry, I misread that. Yeah. Yeah. And we've had that here in Morro Bay there. The Nature Conservancy bought up the permits for many of the, of the fisherman, and with mixed success in the sense that the fishery declined to the point that the supporting industries in the town no longer could run. And when they tried to start up the fisheries back again, there was nobody to process the fish. There was a processing plant that closed in Morro bay last year because he just couldn't make it pay with the number of boats that the NGO felt should run out of that. Now it's changing a bit. Other boats are starting to move in. But yeah, you gotta be really careful. That that that concept is one that I'm very leery of. Because if you pull stakeholders out of the fishery, who's really going to care about the fish? I mean, it's really the people that touch the fish. People that are not catching the fish, not involved in the fish, don't have their livelihood based on the fish, they'll be excited about it and help for six months, two months, whatever. And then there'll be a problem somewhere else, you know, with the Redwing Blackbird. Its the Yellow-winged Blackbird. There is a problem. And they'll, they'll focus on that, because they don't have skin in the game. That's why I think you've got to keep. That's why I really firmly believe that you have to keep recreational, recreational commercial and commercial fishermen all in the thing because of the people that really, really care. And and some of the big NGOs, the ones that have been successful that really help, usually wind up supporting local fishermen and finding ways to to make make it work. Nature Conservancy is starting to work that way now. I'm trying to think of some of the other NGOs. And then

there are people like Oceana, which basically are always fighting to shut down fisheries. And then everybody's sad because there's no docks or pretty little boats around anymore. It's really tough. So I got pretty strong feelings on that, obviously.

Louie Zimm [00:33:46] Well, I think in the United States, we've got a handle on overfishing and many more stocks are rebuilt or rebuilding quite quickly. Climate change is a really big one that we're really worried about. On this coast the shellfish and crab fisheries are threatened by a couple of things. One of them is we seem to be having a incidence of high levels of domoic acid, which is made by a certain plankton. Blooms along along the coast all the way up to Oregon. And unfortunately, this domoic acid, when it's in the crabs and shellfish, becomes a [unintelligible] poison. And you can't eat it. Crabs may be there, but you can't eat 'em. Dungeness crab, that fishery usually opens November. And three or four years ago, they didn't open it until February, March. And then when they opened it, it was right in the middle of the gray whale migration where they never they not have much of a problem with gray whale humpback entanglements or their traps. Suddenly it was pushed off to the opener being right then and suddenly we had a big uptake in the amount of whales tangled. Even more worrying is increase in CO2 in the oceanic waters and more acidic water makes it more difficult for shellfish and small plankton that actually build their tiny little radial arean shells makes it more difficult them to build. So you're actually looking at a threat to the to the absolute base of the food chain. And that's very worrying. In addition, sea urchins, other things that build calcium shells are maybe having a problem. We had a starfish die off of disease. We lost 80 percent of our starfish along this coast. We don't know why. Nobody really knows that. They know it's a starfish wasting disease. Nobody knows why it happened. It may have been because of more years of warm water. We had a warm water blob, starting off Alaska and moved down to the San Francisco area and cut back the success of fisheries a lot. It was a real, real blow. It actually helped the fisheries here in San Diego. The fish wound up with the El Nino and the blob. The fish wound up to find nutrients that come really close to the coast. If you went out, you didn't get a cell. If you went out and you couldn't get a cell phone signal, it told you you're too far off shore. You were in waters that had no food and you better get back. So we were catching the yellowfin tuna four miles off the coast. Nuts. But that that's not good when you start having all these big radical changes. We don't know for sure whether it's never happened before, but it's a real worry. Water wars in California are really a big worry. The salmon, the main reason the salmon have problems. Well, the big the oceanic, the warm blob really hurt because it cut down the amount of nutrients, tamped down the upwelling. And so there's not very much food for the young salmon once they got in the ocean. If they can make it to the ocean, they weren't diverted into canals somewhere growing pistachios. That's a that's a that's a real big battle. So I really think that the in the short run, we're looking good in regulation. In the long run, it's the status of the environment. This is really a problem. You know, more and more fires, snowmelt in the Sierras that melts quickly in March instead of melting slowly all the way through into June. You know, so you've got warmer waters and in the streams. We've really got problems now, a winter run and spring run salmon, which are salmon that come in during the summer and then winter all the way over until spring before they spawn and waters are too little they can't spawn so. Klamath River because of the dams up above um haven't had flushing flows for probably 30, 40 years. They're starting to get on taking those dams out. And so you've been having a lot of some sort of polychaete worm that grows on the bottom, that harvests that that is a host to a salmon parasite. And so the salmon runs in the Klamath River now actually depleted. And we have to do a rebuilding plan for them. The salmon runs on the Sacramento River are now depleted, and we're working on a rebuilding plan. Very difficult to work on rebuilding plan when the environmental conditions that we have fostered are the main

reason. Because, you know, you could stop fishing and it still may not rebuild. Its gonna be really hard. Its's gonna be some real shocks.

Louie Zimm [00:39:32] I think the first reason is we yearn for the adrenaline rush. Somehow we're we're from our descendants way back, we learn that the thrill of getting a strike or of actually outwitting something or collecting something for your tribe is very deep inside of us. So there's there's a social thrill. Oh, wait till I tell him about the fish I caught. But so that's the immediate thing. You become an adrenaline junkie in a very strange way. But I think the thing that lasts and lasts last, because the adrenaline wears off is, you know, I'm seeing there in that kayak and and there's a gallinule walking across a lily pads right next to me. And I just freeze and I don't move. And there's a heron up there in its nest and the clouds and the reflected on the water. And it's it's so beautiful. Yet, you know, I'm surrounded on this pond I'm surrounded by freeways and new houses coming up and dump trucks roaring. I'm sitting in the middle of all this and I'm at peace. And I really feel quietly satisfied with my life. Whereas a lot of people, they never get off the road and and they just get tenser and tenser and tenser. And there's no real relief for them. I really pity people. Pity. I really feel bad for people that can't get away and separate themselves into something where you think of nothing else. You know, I caught the bass when I was trying for that bass, I was thinking of nothing else, which is really healing because Lord knows I got so much to think about. You're hearing all this stuff I have to work on and it's so great. But for that moment, I'm thinking about nothing else. And then I catch the bass and I look around and my mind is somehow cleared and I'm able to see the beauty around me in the middle of the city. You know, I'm not up in Montana. I'm not 100 miles offshore. I'm in the middle of Sarasota, but it's still absolutely beautiful. I think that's the key, I suppose, is that we need to have a connection back to nature. And then there's the tribal connection, too, because, you know, fishing is a social thing. When you were out in the boat this morning. People say, oh, I don't wanna go out on a cattle boat. Well, it's because they've never been out there. You get out there and you're out there fishing with 20 of your best friends. They may not seem like your best friends, but they all have the same interests.

James Thull [00:42:36] Sure.

Louie Zimm [00:42:37] You know, and I ran boats with many people. I love fishing by myself. But I also loved going out and doing the social thing. So it's it's really it's a rare thing. And I'm I'm I'm really challenged to think of another sport that that gives you all that. That gives you the connection with nature, gives you the social thing and allows you to focus and that allows you to calm, allows you to calm down. So. That's why I love fishing. Now my father, he loves sailing. He did the same thing. He was a sailor. Besides being a biochemist and all that. And so he got it from sailing the sailboat out there and doing the celestial navigation, trying to figure out the wind. You have to really know what you're doing out there. And so I think when he was out there, he was thinking about nothing else.

James Thull [00:43:34] Sure.

Louie Zimm [00:43:35] And I think that's really important because this day, this day and age. Now, I just read New Yorker magazine about poor, poor folks that were taken in by ISIS and were finally liberated and now are suspected of being ISIS sympathizers. You know what a world! We're just so lucky that we're able to go out and be something simple. So many people in the world are that are really, really, really challenged. So that's my take.