

INIGO EVERSON

Edited transcript of a video interview with Inigo Everson at his home, conducted by John Tolson on 23rd January 2014. Transcribed by Simon Taylor on 8th October 2019.

[Part 1 0:00:04]

Dancing doll and music.

[Part 1 0:00:20]

Dr and Mrs Everson (Inigo and Diana). Music continues.

[Part 1 0:00:21]

TITLE SCREEN: “Inigo Everson, BAOHP, 23 Jan 2014”

[Part 1 0:00:30] Everson

I was born in London, just . . . not very far from Kew Gardens – West Park Road, Kew – in September 1942 (the middle of the war). My father at that time, I think, was overseas on a round-the-world trip (to maybe avoid the fighting – I think it was in Australia actually) so I was at home with my mother and my brother. But fairly soon after that they moved from Kew down to Portsmouth, because at that time Father was in the Navy and it seemed a sensible place to be, but in retrospect probably leaving one area where bombing was going on to go to another area where even more bombing was probably going on . . . which shows the lunacy of the family.

As I said, my father was in the Navy. That gave me an interest in things marine right from a very early age, and also at Portsmouth seeing Navy ships coming and going through the Solent and Spithead was quite fun as well, and a regular occurrence.

[Part 1 0:01:35] My Mother: she – well, she was never working during my time, but previously she'd been an actress. I'm not quite sure how successful but I'm not quite sure which particular mode it was, but she did various . . . during bringing up the children she did W.I. productions and others, both as shows in the village and that sort of thing. In 1947, the very cold winter we had then, we moved up to Southbourne which is on the Hampshire-Sussex border, on the coast, and that's where I was in the main brought up. I went to school in the local village, and fortunately I passed the 11-plus and I went to Chichester High School for Boys which was . . . I thought it was an extremely good school.

[Part 1 0:02:43] I remember when I'd been accepted, having passed the 11-plus, going to meet the Headmaster and he looks down his nose at me from some great height and [*funny voice*] “Everson, what do you want to do when you grow up?” and I said “Well, I want to be a marine biologist, sir.” [*funny voice again*] “Oh. Why?” And I said well, you know, I like the sea (I spent a lot of time on the shore, fossicking about) and I like fish so these things come together. I should add that at school we had a black-and-white film of the herring industry on the east coast of Britain, progressing down from Scotland right down to Lowestoft, and that had fired my imagination. I'd made Plasticine models of drifters and docks and things like that so that was all clearly there at an early age.

[Part 1 0:03:37] But as far as the family's concerned: I've got one brother who's a couple of years older than me – Mark. He unfortunately contracted what they said was cancer when he was about ten and he missed so much schooling that he failed the 11-plus and never really took off after that – educationally, that is – but with the same sort of interests in Natural History as myself, but he worked for nurseries in the Chichester area and worked in horticulture right the way through his career, ending up as the Tree Officer for West Sussex, so he was pontificating on the status of trees and going round and looking at them and saying

“I’m afraid, Madam, your tree is going to have to go ” – you know – “Those ashes over there don’t look too good to me ” anyway. And I’ve got two sisters, Auriel and Deirdre. Auriel is . . . tries to be unselfconsciously adult all the time, so everything is serious for her. Deirdre has much the same I suppose light-hearted sense of humour as Mark and myself. So when we’re all together it’s quite a noisy situation.

[Part 1 0:05:00] Anyway – back to school: I was interested in biology – I was interested in natural sciences simply because of my background in natural history, at home and going out for walks with the family, and Chichester had a very good biology department – Ken Mirch who took Biology classes up to GCE O-Level. [5:26] He developed time-lapse photography, and as part of the teaching process – and I mean, you’ve got to remember that this is the early fifties – we had films of buds opening up and leaves producing, all this sort of thing, and these were all things that Ken Mirch had done. He even had a paper in *Nature* about it. This was done with cameras which were ex-R.A.F. (because Mirch was in the R.A.F. during the war). He’d got these R.A.F. cameras which were doing single frame at intervals, set up in the lab but under a bench which had venetian blinds to shut the light off during day time, and lights like this going . . . this was going day and night so you followed the thing right the way through, which [?] was magnificent. So you had that sort of thing. And then later on you had the senior biology master – two of them, one was . . . he left after my first year in the sixth form, but he was very supportive of me wanting to do Biology as a career because most of the sixth-form biologists at the time – the majority of them wanted to go either to Medicine or Dentistry. That was something I couldn’t abide. I was never going to be any good in either of those fields. So I carried on and went in to . . . with my other biological interests, and the second year a Mr Jackson came in and he was much more botanically orientated, having done some field work in Sierra Leone in the late forties, early fifties, so as well as being a school teacher he’d got field experience out in I suppose what you’d call the colonies these days. So all this was there along with my own interest in field Natural History, so this was coming through quite nicely. In my final year in the sixth form it came round to applying to universities, and my headmaster had me into the office again and said [*funny voice*] “Everson, what do you want to do at University?” I said “Well, I want to do Marine Biology, sir.” [*funny voice*] “I don’t think that’s a good idea.” I said “Well, I . . .”. [*funny voice*] “Everson, there are very few jobs in that line. I think you ought to do something much more general, like Bio-Chemistry.” I thought “Well, all right.” So I applied to one university to do biochemistry and I also applied to Newcastle and Bangor to do marine biology. I had an interview at Bangor and I really enjoyed it – hit it off with . . . it was Tom Reynoldson, a very important ecologist at the time, and he and I hit it off and we, you know, even on arrival day. That was good, and Tom was a very good teacher – very much more on Terrestrial Biology, but that doesn’t matter – it was early – ecology in those days. And I also went over – in the interview – went over to the Marine Station and met Dennis Crisp who was Director there and he had a background in industry, which was good, looking at antifouling and barnacles and this sort of thing on ships. And he worked for I.C.I. before he came up to Bangor, so he was another person who’d got that sort of applied line in it, which was I think . . . it was something that interested me in the way that I looked at work, and I think subsequently it seemed to be that I was evolving in my own mind the concept of management by objectives. You set up something and you want to test it. You want to work on it and get the answers out. So they were good and I had a great time at Bangor because it’s a lovely spot to be.

[Part 1 0:09:33] I was a very active member in the sub-aqua club and we used to go out every Sunday, either to somewhere around Anglesey for sea dives (the beauty of Anglesey there is that whichever direction the wind was coming from you could always find a lee shore that you could get into, and that was good) but if the weather was really bad we had two options: we – well, three actually. One of them was to go to dive in Holyhead harbour and

look for scallops, just in case one wanted something to eat. Another one was to take li-los and go surfing on the beach out at Rhosneigr – or Red Wharf Bay – or the other one was to go up into the Snowdonian lakes. Llyn Padarn (just below Snowdon) was one of the more popular ones [?]. [giggles]. At that stage the railway line along the – I think it's the eastern side of the lake . . . that had been closed but you could drive a car onto it, which was good fun. The railway line had been taken up so there were railway sleepers there, so we had a huge bonfire of railway sleepers – all the tar in them – so you could get . . . I mean, getting dressed outside in the middle of winter it was quite cold, so we had to have a bonfire there. So it was great fun and I learnt a lot of marine biology there. The Marine Station did not have its own research boat at that time but they chartered a local fisherman to take us out a couple of times, and that was a very good experience and obviously that was great – enjoyable. So to see the stuff coming up from levels that were deeper than we were able to dive in the immediate coastal zone, mostly round ??? [name not recognised - Triala Bay?]

[Part 1 0:11:37] And it was around that time, in my second year, that Nev Jones appeared in the department. Now Nev had been a Met man on Admiralty Bay and at Signy and he'd only just arrived home. I thought he'd done . . . he'd done some very nice piece of work on the sheathbills at Signy, following on from the work started up by Roger Barlow, who sadly was killed on the Gourlay Peninsula just a year or two previously. But Nev was enthusiastic about BAS and he gave a couple of seminars and I thought "Yeah, this is somewhere I want to go – I want to play marine biology and we'll try the Antarctic and see what happens." So when Bill Sloman came round on their – they used to call it the Milk Run – around the universities, giving a talk . . . Bill liked coming to Bangor because I think it was his home area. He may have come from Moelfre, on the north-east coast of Anglesey. [12:55] And so I applied to BAS, and [laughing] the interview was the day after the Rugby Club Dinner and I'd slept in my suit having come back from it and I'd had to get up early to get the Irish Mail train down from Bangor to London, so I must have been pretty dishevelled actually when I walked into Gillingham street. Eleanor Honeywell looked at me. [funny voice] "Oh! Mr Everson! Would you like to tidy yourself up? The . . .'s over there." So I went in. I looked at myself in the mirror and I thought "I don't look too bad, for what I was going through last night" – you see. So I tidied myself up. [demonstrates]

[Part 1 0:13:47] And I was interviewed. I can't remember . . . I know that Bill Sloman was on the panel, and Martin Holdgate. Now, Bill being North Welsh, and seeing somebody with a name like Inigo, who . . . (Every Welshman thinks Inigo is a Welshman, so that was a point in my favour to start with, to counter the dishevelled appearance.) And Martin was asking the usual sort of pointed but led questions about my marine biology and my aspirations and what I wanted to do. Thankfully they were impressed and I was offered a job, so soon after that I travelled down to BAS Biology Unit, which at that stage was at Queen Mary College, down the Mile End Road.

[Part 1 0:14:36] Tolson:

Before you joined BAS you'd been very fortunate in getting a lot of practical experience down at Lowestoft, which helped both academically and practically.

Everson:

Yes, definitely. It was at the end of my second year, when I think the Fisheries Lab. at Lowestoft – they were working on the Irish Sea Young Plaice Survey and they had their scientists who were based at Lowestoft, which is obviously at the Far Eastern part of England – Britain – coming across to work in the Irish Sea (obviously). They'd got very little experience of the coastal area around North Wales, and so they were after a vacation student who knew some of the beaches around North Wales and had a serious interest in marine biology to come and help them with the program over the summer months, and so my name

was put forward by the Prof., and they were very grateful to me, and I went over – very green – and I . . . because Lowestoft . . . it was a sort of Mecca [*he said “machair”*] – it was one of those places, you know . . . marine biology in Britain at that time – the really big places were the Plymouth Marine Lab. for the Marine Biological Association, and for fisheries – in fisheries terms – the Lowestoft Lab., and I knew that from reading about the subject. So I went there and I thought “Well, I’m going to meet some of these great people”. And they were brilliant, actually. They welcomed me in, some of the big names that I’d seen about in references. You’d sit down at coffee break and it was sort of David Cushing, John Galland, Sidney Houlton and David Garrad and company and they’d be laughing and joking away, that Common Rooms do normally – sometimes about local issues and then others about more serious, science, issues so as well as the project that I was working on I was able to meet some of these people and hear them talking about the detail of what went on in fish stock assessment, but following me through in a number of different areas. The other thing is that it also gave me the opportunity of doing some work at sea, because they’d brought the *Tolina*, which is about a forty-five- to fifty-foot wooden inshore side trawler, around and she was operating around Anglesey. They were operating beam trawls from a D.U.K.W. – you know, those military amphibious vehicles – which you could drive along the sand and into the sea, and tow a beam trawl with it. It was brilliant fun. And push nets. So we had all these games.

But *Tolina* was funny, I thought. Charlie Button was the captain on it. He made me laugh. And he could . . . and he was strong Suffolk accent, which I can’t really imitate, but several times he said – he looked . . . he couldn’t get his head around Welsh names. It was too many odd letters – a bad hand at Scrabble – and he’d suddenly say [*funny voice*] “I think tonight we’re going to go into Pull Willy” [*laughs*] (meaning Pwllheli). I’d start laughing. But nobody on the ship put him right, so he was always going into Pull Willy, which we thought was a huge joke.

[Part 1 0:18:26] But seriously, though, it did teach me a lot about actually setting up a sampling program – the collection of the samples, archiving, data collection and all these things, which helped me subsequently. And then also, in and around the lab. at Lowestoft, I met several people who gave me ideas that helped develop things. There was Terry Williams and Bernie Bedford – they were there, and they were doing all the age determination, using otoliths (the earstones) from whatever species was important. And you remember some things that these people tell you: I remember looking at some plaice otoliths. Bernie showed me how to . . . what the annual rings looked like, and I was doing fine and then he put one in front of me and said “There’s a plaice otolith to look at”. He said “That one was twelve centimetres long” – about this sort of size [*demonstrates*]. He said “How old is it?” And I looked at it and I said [*under his breath*] “What are you on about here?”. I said “It looks about 18 years old. They don’t grow as slow as that. Surely there’s . . . I’m not seeing something.” He said “No you’re not. You’re exactly right. That’s a fish that’s been growing in the holding tanks” (down at Hamilton Dock, Lowestoft) “and we know how old it is. We know how long it’s been there. It’s been there eighteen years, before we bumped it on the head, so your age determination was correct. The message I want you to take home is that when you age a fish – look at the otolith. You forget any other information about it, about size or sex or anything like that. You just read what you see there.” Put that piece of information away, because I’ve come across so many instances of people who will only give you an age on a fish (from and otolith, or a scale – scales for that matter) when they know the length of it, they know the size of it, and that’s extremely dangerous. It completely messes up the whole thing. So that was a very good learning experience for me, for when I left university. That summer set in place building blocks for all sorts of activities.

[Part 1 0:21:11] Tolson:

We now are in BAS. You joined BAS. You're getting sorted with your equipment and your gear to go South, and a project has developed.

Everson:

[*laughs*] Yes. I arrived at BAS. Obviously, the first thing I was going to do – I was going to find somewhere to live. So I spent the first day looking for digs somewhere. And actually I met a fellow from schooldays, at the Union (the University of London Union) and he said “Oh, why don't you come with me . . . stay with me for a few weeks, and we can . . . I'll show you round London.” Which was probably a dangerous thing to do, but never mind. So that was sorted. The next thing was sorting out a program, and I remember going into Martin Holdgate's office (Martin was my supervisor) and he said “Inigo, I'd like you to work on fish.” And he didn't tell me very much more than that. So I thought “Well, that's a fairly clean slate I've got to work on”. So my immediate thoughts were setting up a program around what I'd learnt in terms of sampling, at Lowestoft. So that influence came through almost immediately with me when I got out to work, and . . . obviously I didn't know the fish that I was going to be working on, so Martin phoned up the Natural History Museum and spoke to Humphrey Greenwood (whom I'd met actually, who gave a seminar at Bangor on the East African fish of Lake Malawi – the species diversity – Darwinian evolution. Brilliant stuff! In fact fish are a far better subject to look at for demonstrating evolution than the Galapagos finches and all that rubbish that . . . I'm sorry . . . those other species that people look at.) Anyway, I digress. So, arranged, for Martin to take me along to the Natural History Museum. We got on the District Line at Mile End, and the carriage was fairly full, and Martin proceeded to tell me all about the structure of the Antarctic Treaty System, the operation of SCAR, the SCAR Biology Symposia, and all this thing as we travelled along.

[Part 1 0:23:39] Now Martin had an extremely clear and extremely loud voice. He was used to public speaking, clearly. By the time we got through Mansion House and Victoria I realised we were on our own, and I was hearing all this stuff about SCAR and Working Groups and good heavens, what's going on here? – you know. We finally got to the Natural History Museum and the carriage was empty and we got out, and striding up Exhibition Road to the museum, met Humphrey and then Martin introduced me and then went. And Humphrey Greenwood was very good – showing me where the collections were. He invited me down when I'd ordered my equipment to look at the samples that they'd got, which was very good of him. He was a great ??? [*inaudible - loss? person?*]. Very sadly he died about twenty years ago. A lovely man. Anyway – went back to designing my project around the Lowestoft experience. I had to get all my gear ordered within a short period of time in order to get it put on the *Shackleton* to sail at the end of September, so first thing I went back to Lowestoft for a couple of days to ask people about fish-catching methods and how they do it. I asked the people in Bancroft Road, where the Biology Unit was. Pete Tilbrook and Barry Heywood were there, and Ron Pinder. Ron was much more practical about fishing, because I think previously they used to rely a lot more on fish and anybody who could catch fish you'd get a spare meal which got you away from tinned or dried food, which is pretty awful. Anyway, that was . . . I went to Lowestoft and I found out suppliers, got my gear ordered and then went back to the Natural History Museum and had a very useful time with Humphrey and the others there. Wynn Wheeler, who was one of the people who started up the Fishery Society of the British Isles, which I don't think's been mentioned anywhere in the other things. [Part 1 0:25:57] This was all good experience for me so that I set out for the briefing conference in Cambridge in early September pretty confident of what I wanted to do, pretty confident that I could catch some fish and I had an idea of which species I might encounter, so I was reasonably happy about that. So we had the briefing conference. That was very good because it was formal in terms of lectures and informal in other respects as well – the

sort of social events. So I remember – Logistics was a word that I'd not come across previously, and we had this lecture on logistics by Johnny Green, and he stood up on the podium and he said "I expect all you think Logistics has something to do with Logic. Forget it!" And then went on about playing with motor toboggans and huskies and ships and all this sort of thing. It was really fun but totally confusing, but never mind. Another one was by Sir Raymond Priestley, who gave his talk on Scott's expedition. That was using the old lantern slides, and that made me begin to realise what I was entering into, the history, going back there. So after the . . . that was the last one for the day and afterwards when we went back to – I think it was Corpus Christi College we were at . . . went for a walk round town and he was very shaky on his legs at that stage but he was walking along and I think I was with Neil Marsden – a surveyor, going down to Stonington – and we stopped and had a chat to him, a very enlightening person about dealing with personnel, because on his expedition they'd had this serious problem about officers and men and all this sort of thing and how you get into it. I was glad to have spoken to him. He was quite gentle but firm and knew what he wanted. So that was useful, and the whole thing sort of flew by. Before I knew where I was I'd been up to Bangor to say cheerio to me landlady and all the bits and pieces around there, had a few pints with me landlord and company, and then down to Southampton to join the *Shackleton*.

[Part 1 0:29:10] Tolson:

So you arrive in Southampton and see this tiny little ship and think "Where am I going to put everything?"

Everson:

Well, I did, because it was . . . The *Shackleton* was going from the Ocean Terminal. You go along that jetty – you walk along there – and there must have been about fifteen or twenty feet from the water level to the dock level and it was . . . you could see the . . . I think it went down onto the Boat Deck, onto the *Shackleton*, and you think "Crikey, what's this thing doing?" At times it's a bit like The Navy Lark, actually, because . . . It's dreadful. You're a ship's officer. You don't get up to naughty things like they did, but I think a few days previously there'd been one of the cannons from outside of the training centre just down the road from Southampton and this had been towed behind a Morris Minor, after a few beers, arrived back on the ship and was put on the Boat Deck. I think Simon Colshaw was part of that lot. He may deny it, but anyway – so there was that, and there were a couple of the crew who'd had a few to drink and they were diving off the side of the ship into the dock and then coming up the ladder and going round again, just showing off, I think to impress the friends and relations who were coming to see their baby boys going away to the Antarctic with this . . . And then Frosty – Captain Turnbull – a very . . . it all gelled. I mean, you know – casting off and going away. It was all very smooth and very – you know – you think this is brilliant, you say farewell to everybody knowing you're going to be away for two and a half years, and sailed off down . . .

And it was a good trip South. Brian Porter was King Fid on the way down, and he'd been south before, and was a very gentle manager of people. We had to do jobs on the ship, holly-stoning the decks and doing all this sort of thing, and taking turns on the wheel to give the crew time to do other maintenance jobs around the ship, and that was good. I think there were about a dozen of us on board. Not very many. ??? [*inaudible*]. It was quite small. But it worked well, and we got into Montevideo after three weeks and – you may find this hard to believe – Montevideo was the first overseas place I'd ever been to. I'd never been outside of Britain – outside of England [*sic*] – before, so I arrived in Montevideo, so "Crikey!" – you know – "They speak a different language!" There are different sounds and smells and everything. But had a nice steak and a couple of days there and then we sailed. I think Jim Shirtcliffe joined the ship there, I seem to remember, and he'd been working in South America and was heading off back to the Falklands, so getting a lift.

So four days out of Monte we came into Stanley, onto the main jetty there. [pause] It reminded me of what I'd seen in photographs of ships arriving in the Scottish isles – people arriving on the jetty in a Land-Rover, and they were all huddled up against the wind, and all this sort of stuff, and they came on board and met the crew and it was an exceptionally friendly atmosphere. And you'd go ashore to The Globe, or whichever pub was ??? [inaudible]. So that was very good, but two things we did there: we had to get our Antarctic kit, so we went up to the loft and we were fitted out with all these clothes. Some of them were not really made for Antarctic use. [laughs] I think they got them out of Exchange and Mart, a lot of them! Trousers that fell apart, and socks and . . . I mean . . . Greenlander boots and some of the equipment were good. Anoraks were good. Anyway, that was all alright. We were fitted out and ready to go. The other thing we had to do . . . it was sandbags – filling sandbags and putting it on the ship for building projects South. So the number of sandbags I've carried down jetties on me shoulder . . . you know – putting it on a pile on the ship, and putting 'em ashore. It was huge. Tons of the blinking stuff. So that was that. We sailed soon after. Had to go across to Punta Arenas because there was a problem with the crane, and that took . . . [Part 1 0:34:39] a few days to sort the main swivel bearing out on the crane. A bit more entertainment there, but anyway . . . came back and then headed south, and after . . . called in at Deception, where the over-wintering team had been led by Len Mole, who is a pretty well-organised sort of person, and leader as well, and seeing the way that he'd got the team organised, with the cargo coming ashore in all the boxes . . . that's got to go there, and there, and there . . . each person knew where they were at. There wasn't shouting and all that sort of thing. I was amazed at how well organised it all was.

[Part 1 0:35:28] Tolson:

It must have been quite strange for you, going to Antarctica expecting to see snow and desolation and in fact all you saw was a volcanic island, with a narrow opening into it.

Everson:

Well, that narrow opening is really impressive. When coming in through Neptune's Bellows for the first time you think ??? [inaudible]. Subsequently coming through, when I've got my scientific echo sounder going, and you see the sea bed come up and it's down to about fourteen or fifteen metres under the keel as you go across the lip into the caldera . . . But actually my briefing from Nev Jones had filled me in on a lot of what to expect and he'd described Deception to me pretty well, as he had done with Admiralty Bay, so it wasn't a surprise but it was still a great sight to see. Also occasionally there were a few cooked krill on the beach (they'd got caught in the fumaroles and died) so I was seeing a little bit of marine biology there, and actually I put a hand line over and caught a few fish as well, so things were working . . . beginning to work. But moved off, and after a couple of weeks of geophysics in the Bransfield Strait ended up at Signy, which was where I stayed for two years. And there they got the over-wintering team. The new base Leader was Mike Northover, another . . . I could see why these base leaders had been selected. They were very well organised, and they could make decisions. Mike was a very keen yachtsman. In fact I think he'd . . . well, I know he'd been either on *Sceptre* or the other challenger in the America's Cup in the late-'50s, early '60s, so he knew about yachting and using boats and all this sort of thing, so he was a very useful person to be with, and also I think keeping an eye on me to make sure that I was settling in. I set up my program as I'd intended and started fishing and luckily initially I caught fish straight away with long lines and traps and that was working quite well, but then after a couple of weeks things went absolutely flat. I went for about a week without catching anything, and I was getting seriously worried. Is that all the fish gone? What do I do for my program? You know . . . I'm not catching fish. But people were very good about that. I remember Bob Burton taking me out to go over to Gourlay, because he was looking at agonistic behaviour in skuas, just to get me somewhere else, where I could see something that was different – a penguin colony and skuas and all that sort of

thing, and we remained fairly close in a lunatic sort of way, all the way through, partly because Bob was a great lover of The Goon Show (with Harry Secombe, Spike Milligan, Peter Sellers). I don't know if you're aware that in those days the BBC used to send radio programs out to the Falklands [Part 1 0:39:32] and I think the agreement was they could play these (these were on ordinary vinyl, 33 or 45 revs – I dunno) . . . the Falklands Radio could broadcast them – I think twice – and then they had to destroy them. Well, the Falklands Radio way of destroying them was to send these down to the bases, so we had about a dozen or so Goon Shows, which was brilliant, and some others which were dreadful – they were real grimmies! “A Star Remembers”: this thing . . . some old bid who thinks her back to her days and she sings some of the songs: [*Inigo sings*] “Two little birds in a tree-ee, You and me-ee, Can't you see-ee? I'll bring you a worm for your tea-ee”. You'd think “Oh God! This is awful!” but they're so bad you've got to listen to them. Anyway, to get out of the social life – with people like Bob, Mike, Barry Goodman who was . . . Barry Goodman's a brilliant cynic. You should never try to cap him with a sarkie comment because he'd come back with something even more acerbic. This sort of badinage was going on a lot of the time, so that was good.

[Part 1 0:41:00] Soon after that we had a visit from a Russian trawler, the *Gnevny*. Now *Gnevny* was a converted whale-catcher and it was rigged as a side trawler, and they just suddenly appeared, coming slowly into Borge Bay, heading towards Pipeline Beach, and we thought “What's happening here? Is this an invasion? Is there something happening? Dunno here!” Then obviously they saw the yellow base hut and they altered course and came into Factory Cove and anchored there. We put ropes ashore for them because we thought “If he swings on his anchor here he's going to be in real trouble”. But you know the Soviets – they seem to lead a charmed life like that. But what they'd done . . . they were looking for fresh water, and on the old chart it had – indicated the water pipe (Water Pipe Beach I think it was called) and there was a pump house there so they thought they could get fresh water there. Well, little did they know that that chart was done in the nineteen-thirties [Part 1 0:42:23] and it had all gone, so Mike and the Fids all got together: “How do we get fresh water to these people?” A challenge here and the “can do” spirit, and we rigged up a polythene pipe that took water from our reservoir that was coming down the back slope and took a pipe out, so that gave them sufficient fresh water just to sort them out, and they went on their way rejoicing.

[Part 1 0:43:00] But it was interesting talking to the Chief Scientist there because he was explaining that they were doing exploratory fisheries work on the fish species in the area with a view to commercial exploitation. Now, I hadn't heard any indication of that from anywhere. Likewise I'd always thought that krill might be a subject for commercial exploitation but didn't know how or when or where that might take place, and they were doing that as well. So talking to him to explain this – that was quite an enlightening thing because they were doing trawling and they were doing oceanography as well.

[Part 1 0:43:43] But Gennady Suliani [*spelling not checked*] (he was the Chief Scientist there) – he was explaining this to me, but his wife was on board. It was explained to us that she was a Russian film star and Crikey! You know! See this woman coming ashore – she knew how to pose – and God! The testosterone level! It went through the roof! Fids . . . [*imitates tongue hanging out and gibbering etc.*] But there was the usual social interaction with the ship. I have to admit that I had far too much to drink. They were toasting the Queen, Prince Philip, Prince Charles, and we – you know – Khrushchev. It went quiet. Oh, he's yesterday's man. We got it wrong! But anyway, there wasn't any ill feeling about, and they showed us Soviet propaganda films [Part 1 0:45:04] about people working and how brilliant it was – good stuff. So they went, and then a few days later another Soviet ship came in – the *Obdorsk*. Now, the *Obdorsk* was a . . . whereas *Gnevny* was probably 150 . . .

quite a large whale-catcher – very sleek, *Obdorsk* was a much smaller side trawler probably about 30 metres in length, and they came in and they wanted fresh water, and we thought “Just a minute, if this come . . . how many more of them are there out there?” So we said “Look, we can give you a small amount but we’ve got to make sure our reservoir is full, as long as possible, so that we get the melt water to keep us going in the reservoir until we get the snow build-up to do snow blocks for the winter.” So, fine, that was all right, so they went off. [Part 1 0:46:22] Oh, previous to that, when *Gnevny* was in, I was looking out of the base window (after my heavy drinking session, still fairly hungover) with Mike Northover. We were looking out. It was blowing fairly heavily – the wind. We saw the Soviets had an aluminium boat which was tied off and was just hanging off the stern, and that just came adrift and it was drifting away and it was heading towards Balin Point, and I said to Mike “Look, if someone doesn’t do something about that they’re just going to lose that completely!” So he said “Okay, let’s go out and get it!” So he and I launched the *Desmerestia* (a 16-foot dinghy) and went out as fast as we could with our little Seagull outboard – couldn’t catch up with it in time but managed to get it onto Pipeline Beach and hauled it up and put it safe by which time the *Gnevny* was about to leave, so they left having left their boat and saying “We’ll come back and collect it.” They’d gone and *Obdorsk* came. (They were doing purely oceanography. They weren’t doing any krill fishing, I don’t think. I’m not sure. I’d need to check on that, but anyway it doesn’t matter – it’s no great material problem.) They left, and at this time a project that was going on at Signy was building a bulk fuel tank (bulk oil tank, for ships and for the base) – steel erectors and welders doing this, and it was one morning just before lunch when one of the welders slipped and fell and dislocated his elbow. We didn’t have a doctor on base or anything like that and Mike was trying to sort out what to do. You know – Ships Captains’ Medical Guide comes out, he . . . and Colin Herbert was a keen nurse as well in that sort of situation. (I mean, it’s good that there are people like that – wanting to do that.) [*last sentence indistinct - transcription less reliable than elsewhere*] Anyway, got him . . . (I think it was Larry, his name was) – got him down to Base and trying to work on him when *Gnevny* came back in and we . . . they sent ashore and they wanted their boat, so I arranged to collect . . . I’m not sure how we got the boat back to them, but anyway we said “Have you got a doctor on board?”. And they did, fortunately, and he worked with Mike and Colin and company and reset the elbow, which was very good. They also left us some anaesthetic. I don’t think it was Ether. I forget what it was. Ethylene Dichloride? I don’t know. I can’t remember what, but some large ampoules of anaesthetic, which came in very useful on a subsequent occasion. So having got that sorted out that was all all right, so they left and the tank was completed and then all our forty-gallon drums of oil were taken out to the *Shackleton* one day – it was pouring, you know, snow and sleet and everything, and the oil was pumped out of the tanks on a pipeline up to the tank. The *Shackleton* sailed. They’d got about a day out and we discovered there was a leak in the tank. Oh dear! Fortunately we’d still got all the forty-gallon drums, so we spent the next three or four days filling forty-gallon drums up with oil, flowing down from the tank. So the following season the *Biscoe* came in and they took all the stuff up to the ship again and pumped it all up again. [Part 1 0:50:42] That’s the sort of games that occasionally one needed to play. Anyway – got through that. The other thing that first summer, Pete Redfern was going out. He’d been setting up his own Marine Biology project which unfortunately didn’t produce very much (which was a pity because . . . good opportunity). And actually we’d got Jim Price who was from the Natural History Museum working on seaweeds. And we’d had a diving program looking at the zonation of seaweeds down the . . . and that taught us something: we’d got three different depth gauges that we were using and we found that they were each giving different depths at the same level. And we thought “We’ve got to standardise this somehow” so we just had a good dive and we’d go through this [*indistinct sentence, transcription questionable*]. Anyway it produced some good results and – I’m not sure where – I think Jim did write that all up and publish it. But at the end of the stay Pete wanted to do a round-the-island trip in the boat, so we went out and we . . . the *Desmerestia* –

the dinghy. We were all full [?] and we set off and looked at North Point and then came round to Foca and came in and dropped a kedge anchor out in the little bay there and came along and I think it was Nigel Bacon who tied the boat up by putting a loop around a rock. While we were ashore for an hour or two the tide came up and the rope floated off the rock, so that the *Des* was in the bay about fifty yards offshore, and we were all ashore. And I was looking and saying “God! How are we going to get there? Somebody’s going to get wet!” And it was absolutely flat calm, and I thought “Well, is anybody . . . ? Somebody’s got to do something.” So I stripped all my clothes off, except for my socks so that I could walk on the rocks, went into the water absolutely stark naked, swam out to the *Des* (It was bloody cold! Oh, it was cold! Lump in throat time!), climbed into it and then rowed it back and then quickly got out, shook myself off quickly and then put all my clothes back on. Because I’d got windproofs on it didn’t matter that there was some slight moisture – that was all absorbed and so I got away with it. It’s not a very sensible thing to do but we got the boat and we carried on round the island. As you can imagine there were a few cameras out, so there were these pictures of me stark naked except for my socks, joining the Antarctic Swimming Club. Dreadful! I don’t know what the Director thought about it, but never mind!

[Part 1 0:53:58] Anyway, so it went into our First Winter at Signy, and the sea ice formed fairly early on and then broke out. That made my program really difficult because I couldn’t fish when there was a lot of pack about because my gear was based on long lines, where you’ve got to have a surface float, or a fish trap – where you’ve got to have a surface float. So whenever there was pack around I’d always keep an eye open and if it was blowing in I’d go out in the boat and lift my gear . . . come back. So I missed out on April in my first year, and then fortunately good sea ice formed in May and I was able to start fishing – a really good sample then. But before the sea ice had formed properly there was a group . . . “Let’s go out to North Point!” We’d got to go across the sea ice. I think it was Walt Dawson who was driving the skidoo. I thought – I think we all thought – he was going to be heading for Billy Rocks to go round, up through Lakes Valley to the North Point. No. Walt was heading straight for Balin Point. Well, we knew that the ice out to Billy Rocks was about a week or two old, but beyond that it was only about three or four days old. So he went straight line and we only realised too late what Walt was doing and he just drove straight off, and sitting on the sledge we were . . . and the skidoo was sort of going like this, you know [*demonstrates ploughing along, nose up*] [Part 1 0:55:36] You could see this new ice – it was rippling gently, and suddenly it cracked and the skidoo [*gestures a plunge*] zonked out, and the sledge went through and there were six people floundering around in the water. Dreadful, you shouldn’t laugh about these things. I remember Mick Purbrick said “I can’t swim! I can’t swim!” – you know, and he was striking out. Now he wore glasses, and the water had splashed up onto his glasses and he couldn’t see wh . . . and he was heading for Coronation Island! “Mick! This way! Come on back!” Anyway, he came back and everybody was hauled out and we hurried back to the base and had cocoa and medicinal brandy and stuff like this to see us through. And there was this picture I’ve got of a big bin full of distilled water with six cameras in it, which we were trying to get the seawater out and get them going again. Actually Barry Goodman and Mike Northover, and Colin Herbert, they spent time dismantling them and seeing which bits were corroded and they could work on, and I think we got all of them working again. One or two of the lenses were fairly knackered at the end of it, but it was incredible being able to do that. A lot of the anti-flare coating came off in the seawater. It wasn’t quite as case-hardened on as the manufacturers tell you, but they were all working at the end of it, which was brilliant.

[Part 1 0:57:17] Anyway, carried on working on my project through the winter, with . . . Unfortunately the diving compressor died on us, and Tony Walker, whose project was dependant on diving to look at limpets . . . that meant a major re-think on it. I remember spending a long time in the lab with Tony talking about what you might be able to get from a

program on limpets without diving, because I think he'd been given instruction that he was to carry on working on limpets rather than transfer to something else, which might in retrospect have been a bit easier. Poor old Tony had a hell of a bad time there. I tried to support him through it, but never mind. We did some sampling through the ice, cutting holes with a chain saw, even towing an Agassiz dredge under the ice, with a chain saw. What we did – you'd cut a big slit with the chain saw, and as you got a slit you got a piece of rope with a diving weight on it, and going through and as the cut remained open [*gesturing jiggling the rope up and down*] you kept on going through until you'd got to another ice hole at the other end, so that you had about 100 metres that you could tow the sledge over, just under the ice. It took all day to do, to do one haul and a couple of hauls back, but it was good. And soon after that the Weddell seals started using them and then the Weddell seals were hauling out to pup and penguins came back and it was the end of the winter, so that was a good time and I got good samples that way, right the way through that winter.

[Part 1 0:59:09] Tolson:

On Base life generally, what was winter doing to people? Was it a good harmonious group, or were there problems?

Everson:

Well, I thought it was a good lot, but you don't always recognise where the pressure points are. I don't know what other people thought of me at the time, because being a raw graduate and having been in an environment of university and we all have that sort of level of jokes, and then you're in a group where you've got one or two other scientists but you've got various (very professional) tradesmen and other groups present who have different types of humour – different ways of interacting and all this sort of thing. It takes time to recognise what it is you're doing that's irritating somebody. Then you've got to do some . . . “Do I continue with it, to irritate them?” – which is probably not a good idea, or do you think “Do I get a way around of this?” but one thing about that actually [Part 1 1:00:38] with a group of – I think it was 11 of us, wintering – that sort of size meant that if there was somebody who you weren't getting on too well with (I don't think there were examples where I felt I wasn't getting on with other people) you could lose yourself without definitely not meeting up with them. I didn't have that problem with other people, but other people may have had that problem with me, and if they did they were very clever about it because I didn't notice it – because I must have been bloody arrogant, actually, a young whipper-snapper with a degree, coming along and telling people . . . but you've also got to learn, as well. That to me was another big value there, actually, working alongside professional . . . it seems wrong to call them tradesmen . . . if you've got a professional carpenter and a professional engineer and they do a good job and they want to do a good job, to see the way they get around it . . . Now I learnt a huge amount about carpentry, just basic use of tools and keeping them in decent nick, which I still . . . that's not just from that, but all my time – well, not all my time, over the first few years with BAS (I mean subsequently with John Galsworthy (Golly) and Dave Hill) they . . . I still can't do a mortice and tenon anything like they do, but – they do [*indistinct*] and they fit first time. Engineers, like Walt Dawson – he'd take apart an engine and put it together. Ernie Thornley – he was always looking for things to do – an R.A.F. engineer. He got the old pump from Pipeline Beach and dismantled it and built it up and got it going. It was just incredible! He put a carburettor on it from a Seagull outboard. He had this flywheel, and he wanted to take it home. I don't know if it would be allowed now, under the treaty system. I don't know if he's still got it. But I mean it was great, taking that apart, cleaning it all up and getting the piston going, you know – these are really top-of-the-range . . . I say trades- . . . crafts-men. They'll build things up, and that was good and you learnt a lot – plumbing and electricians as well as basic carpentry and woodwork and metalwork and things, and that goes right the way through my times on base, through to the mid-'70s. We had a professional chef on base – this was Nigel Bacon – and he jokingly said “There's no

Cook on base. There's only Sunday cooks." [Part 1 1:03:34] And Nigel was doing sort of Mon . . . [*unfinished sentence*] And he was extremely good – very very careful. But I'm sure that his careful attention to portion sizes and cooking meant that there was minimal waste, and so that was a more efficient use of the resources that we had, and he was very keen on producing quality meals, even with what he'd got. And it was amazing what he could turn out, with the sauces that he produced. He also took the fish that I caught, so that we had fish for Friday lunch every week, all the way through my time on base, which was quite good. You'd get *notothenia* about this size [*fisherman's elastic demonstration of length, about two feet long*] – you'd get a couple of good fillets off it. You don't need all that many to feed the troops, so my sampling kept things going, which was very good.

[Part 1 1:04:43] Tolson:
And how did your Sunday cooking go?

Everson:

I was dreadful. I was on a steep learning curve, because my mother did all the cooking at home and I'd only done very basic cooking on scout camps and things like that, so trying to deal with Sunday Cook to . . . I was looking at recipes and trying to put it all in. For the most part they were edible, but it wasn't the most interesting of food that I was able to do . . . not surprising in hindsight. A lot of people were much better than I was at it. I just hadn't the experience. I learnt a fair amount, so that when I came home I was able to do a reasonable amount of cooking, but nowadays I don't, because Diana enjoys cooking – not a problem any more! Anyway, after my first winter there was a lot of the people who were on base with me for my first winter went, and the only two who remained were Nigel Bacon (the chef) and myself – a whole new influx. And this was a new regime that Martin Holdgate was initiating, because Martin wanted to enhance the Life Sciences side of the work, and so he recruited – there was Ron Lewis-Smith, Colin Herbert and myself in 1964, and we three did our projects and wrote up in very timely fashion, which was very good as far as he was concerned, but he'd already moved on by the time that happened. But then he had to provide cover for Meteorology, so he was recruiting people to be both a met man and a scientist, and that's where Martin White and Dennis Lindsay came in. And that's a very difficult thing to do, to try and combine the two into a front-line research program and be a met man, and so both Dennis and Martin were under a lot of pressure. Now Martin fortunately was a very good team player. Martin wanted things that . . . he picked up on quite a few of the general marine biology things that were outside of the remit of fish work, that it was useful to do in running the station. So he started the (I'd started it) . . . the monthly collection of temperature and salinity at depths at two or three of my working stations and then Martin was keen to carry on, so he was the driving force behind that, and then after he'd left base there was a driving force to keep that going, and that carried on through. I think Andy Clark has written up a lot of that work, which . . . it's very good, to get that long-term monitoring – monthly sampling for temperature, salinity, ice thickness and all this sort of thing. So that was good. Then as well as Martin and Dennis there were Roger Beck and Bob Ralph came in. Now they were both coming down for the summer, and . . . no, Roger came down to winter and Bob just came down for the summer. Bob had done a Ph.D. on physiology of *Neomysis integer* at Southampton (a small mysid crustacean species) and so he was coming down to do a similar sort of study on some of the crustacea in one of Barry Heywood's lakes. So he set up to do that and did very well. But Martin had encouraged him to look for other physiology studies that he could do, and I'd managed to catch a few ice fish – the *Channichthyidae* – these are the . . . they've got no haemoglobin – white-blooded fish, and I was interested in following that up, but I didn't want it to divert from the main stream of my ecological work. So it was great that Bob arrived so we could set up on what we wanted to do. So Bob came back the following summer and we set up and did a lot of work on the blood analyses of fish as well as oxygen uptake rates. I think Martin Holdgate must have been very pleased about this,

because there had been some work done by the Americans – Curly Vorlschtag – at McMurdo. He'd come up with this phenomenon of Cold Adaptation which we don't need to go into for this but I wasn't sure about what it meant, so it was worth doing it – Bob did. We did work on the red-blooded fish, the Notothenia, that I was doing for my Ph.D. , which was very good because I could use that data for the energetics to calculate the energy budget through the Factory Cove in terms of the fish, so that I could be looking at fish productivity, which went over and above the mathematical models which I'd seen on fish production when I was at Lowestoft – so it is all that coming back together again. Bob and I did these first experiments on oxygen uptake in the Channichthyids and found that it was about the same sort of level as the red-blooded fish, so then you start asking ??? [*inaudible word - again?*] “How do they do it? What's going on here?”. And this takes me back again to my way of thinking – to one of my lecturers at Bangor, Neil Alexander, who was absolutely brilliant. He'd written a book called “*Functional Design in Fish*” which was looking at aspects of their anatomy, morphology and so on, and “how do fish work?”. Bio-physics was his way of looking at it. And I was thinking “How would Neil Alexander have been thinking about this?”. And working with Bob I realised that if you've taken the same amount of oxygen out of the water you've got to have sufficient blood going through the heart and the gills to do that. If the amount of oxygen that you can carry in the blood is much less than a red-blooded fish you've got to have more blood going through the heart, so I thought “Well, the way round this is – there must be a larger blood volume”, and if it's a larger blood volume it must be pumping this round, so it must have a bigger heart, so I measured heart size relative to fish size and came up with this thing that heart was very much larger relative to body size in the white-blooded fish – the ice fish – relative to the normal fish, but . . . that was a good start. When I got back from the Antarctic in '67-'68 I wanted to follow this up, and had a request from George Hughes, the professor at Bristol, to send somebody to the Antarctic to work on ice fish and [*inaudible phrase*] George Holton [*spelling not checked*], who was a Ph.D. student there, a Canadian fellow – really switched on – very good indeed – very sharp . . . and he got it all sorted out. And in fact we got George down to the Antarctic in '68 or '69 and he did infinitely better physiology experiments than Bob and I were able to do, because I was . . . a fairly Mickey Mouse thing, but he'd got right flow rates, electrodes for measuring oxygen and CO₂ and all this sort of thing and did an extremely good analysis which would stand up now. It was brilliant, and it knocked on the head the Cold Adaptation thing that Vorlschtag and the Americans had been rabbit-ing on about – but I digress. Sadly George died in a car crash not long afterwards which was a great shame, but I'm very delighted to have worked with him. “George the Owl” they called him on base, because he had a face like a . . . very wide eyes. [*Inigo demonstrates widely-spaced eyes*]

[Part 1 1:13:34] [*Laughter, and a new camera position*]

This brought a new influx of Fids to the base for my second summer, including John Brotherhood, Doctor. He's very wiry and all over the place – active [*Inigo demonstrates somebody who seems to be everywhere at once*] . . . taking over as Base Leader from Mike Northover. So, he had a lot to do. I remember we had a problem with stamp accounts, but I don't think I want to embarrass him too much about that because it must have been an absolute nightmare for anybody, with all the money going back and forth and who was having what. But during that summer, when *Kista Dan* was on its way down to Halley, one of the Danish stewards on board was diagnosed with appendicitis. [*another new camera position*] Ron Lloyd and John Brotherhood looked at the steward and they decided that it needed surgery. There weren't the facilities on *Kista Dan*. We didn't have a proper hospital at Signy, but even so surgery had to go ahead. A quick pow-wow on base decided the best place to do it – the cleanest lab – was likely to be the Chemistry Lab. , so as much equipment as possible was taken out and then it was all scrubbed down for several hours, led by Mike Northover and Barry Goodman, to get the place absolutely spotlessly clean. So they set it all up and put a table in to lie the patient out on and I think Ron was the surgeon and Bro was the

anaesthetist and I think the anaesthetic they were using was in part some of the stuff that the Soviets had left with us when we'd had the problem with the dislocated elbow the previous summer, which was very fortuitous. Mike Northover was acting as a nurse, Barry Goodman as well. Colin Herbert was there doing a nursing bit and also taking photographs. Colin was an excellent photographer, I mean really good, and thoroughly enjoyed it. So they were all down there and the rest of the base were told to keep quiet – no jumping up and down, it's a very sensitive time. So the rest of us were upstairs in the Dining Room, and on *Kista Dan* at that time was Ray Adie (Deputy Director) and Derek Gipps (Equipment ??? [*inaudible word*]) along with a *Sunday Express* reporter, and we sat down around the dining table and there were just Fids' stories going all the time (and I hope some of them were embroidered because they sounded certainly outrageous – a lot of them) and this *Sunday Express* reporter was worrying about some of the stories that were going on and flying around, and also worrying about this Danish steward under the knife underneath us and will he survive and what was going to happen, and several times he went fairly white before he went back onto the ship at the end of the evening. Anyway, the steward survived and he recovered OK [*that was a paraphrase of a not-quite-audible sentence*] [Part 1 1:17:14] He liked a – I think it was a Brenda Lee record, or something that he liked, and he kept playing this on and on and on and on, and I think finally Bob Burton decided that it ought to be archived somewhere very safe, so it wasn't heard any more. But it was good that with the new arrivals on base then we set to and the second winter was different to the first.

[Part 1 1:17:50] Tolson:

How did you feel within yourself as a second-year man there? How did that change your dynamic?

Everson:

I don't really know, because I've not thought about that. The thing is that my biological sampling carried on in the same way. I realised that as a second-year man I needed to help and carry people forward, the new ones [?] and the obvious one who I was working with a lot of the time was Martin (Martin White), but yeah – the general jobs that needed to be done around on base, because at that time the philosophy was that the best person to do a job was the one who was not doing anything else at the time. Oh, nowadays you've got Health and Safety. Oh, you can't do that because you haven't got a certificate to change the plug on anything, you haven't got . . . because you haven't got a plumber's certificate. Oh for God's sake, it's daft! It meant first of all . . . learnt how to do all these techniques so I could do . . . as I said earlier with all these tradesmen . . . but also was allowed to do it, which was good. So the second winter went very well and I got lots of good results. It was very different actually to the first in many respects, because . . . In fact actually Ron Lewis-Smith was one of the over-winterers there, and we'd both joined BAS at the same time but he'd only been on Signy for a short period in my first summer, but he came down for the second summer and was working through the winter. But Ron got up to . . . he worked extremely hard, I mean – the amount of field sampling – he'd got out on skis looking for his mosses all over the place. He'd got an army supplies parachute with him and he was using this to ski-jor along, going at a hell of a rate across the sea ice – brilliant stuff. Ernie Thornley saw this and he made his own one out of a set of curtains. It was brilliant! Those were the sort of people we were with. We had the odd Saturday Night – beautiful moonlit night, absolutely flat calm in the middle of winter, and we'd all go out for a walk. We'd go across the sea ice up to Jane Coll. We'd be glissading down the thing through the night – it was brilliant – and then come back at about two o'clock in the morning and that would be it. After one of those efforts Ron went up there to look for his mosses up at the top of Jane Peak and there, wedged in the cairn at the top, was an empty brandy bottle with hoar frost on it. I don't know how it got there. And we made our own fireworks for Bonfire Night, and Dennis was leading on that one, and so we had our own little firework display, which was quite fun, and one or two other things

happening there which . . . but anyway, came in, and my final summer it was a question of . . . I'd finished my field sampling (ecological sampling) and I got on with the physiology with Bob Ralph. [Part 1 1:21:31] And that was the summer when there was the new team going in to rebuild Halley with Ricky Chinn, and Sir Vivian came ashore to brief us on what was happening in the Survey, and I remember he asked the group "Are there any problems that you want to air with me?" and everybody was quiet, and I thought "I just can't let this pass". I said "Look, during the past few months we've had three fires in the Generator Shed. That was because at some stage there is sawdust and wood under there, and there's also a lot of diesel oil in the wood. It's just a recipe for disaster. It's got to be changed. When are you going to change the Genny Shed?" I knew that the Fids, some of the new ones, had been complaining about it and we said "Yes, but you wait until the Director comes and we'll tell him", but none of them did, so I took it on myself to rip into it and I told him exactly what I thought about it, and it needed change. He was very good. He listened – listened carefully, said "Yes, I'm [mumble, mumble mumble]" and then took me aside and it was clear that it was money that was the problem – getting the financial situation to do it. Absolutely fine, but you do need the generator shed changing – let's not change that! There was a certain respect there. He knew that if there was an issue that I felt strongly about I would certainly make it known to him. Now, as a manager I'd much rather know about problems rather than hear it on the grapevine and coming far field from somebody else, and I think he respected me for that. [Part 1 01:23:45] Actually another person who came on base was Ted Merrill, who was a fisheries biologist from Alaska. Now Ted – he was exactly the right person to have as an observer. He wasn't your average run-of-the-mill American. Alaskans are different. He just fitted in in the Fids' way of life. He brought a slide show with him about his work in Alaska. He was working on Salmon, so he and I had quite a lot to talk about – seals and this sort of stuff. By the time he'd left everybody wanted to go to Alaska – must go there, this brilliant place! Let's go and see it! Great! – I've never been yet, but I must go. I've seen an excuse that I might follow up, but we won't go that one here. At that time also I'd put in a request to go and sample fish at each of the Peninsula bases – at Deception, Argentine Islands, Adelaide and Stonington, and this had been refused. The answer came back "No, you can train people up in catching fish and looking at the maturity state of them, and they can report back to them [*sic*]." And I thought "How can you be so flipping ignorant? There's no way that that's going to work." And I said so, and I told Fuchs exactly what I thought about the idea, so I was allowed to do it. I went down and I got a very good paper out on the . . . looking at the spawning season of the fish that I was working on. The reason for the interest there was, when I went south all the information was that spawning took place in the middle of summer. Now I'd been watching the fish, and the ovarian development and the testis development had been going on right the way through the summer and it was still going through, and it was only in May/June time that spawning was taking place at Signy. Now I wanted to know whether Signy is different to the rest of the Antarctic or what, so the easiest way of doing it was to compare bases, so I wanted to go fishing. And Fuchs agreed to it because he knew he was probably going to get an earful if he didn't, and the people they'd asked to catch fish for me – none of them caught . . . (well, I think Ron Leadingham caught one, at Adelaide) but it had been completely hopeless. But out of that as well I caught *adamuscium* (scollups) which I worked with Rob Ralph on, and he got a thing on growth rate out of them, so there were other things that fed off it, so it showed that that can be used. Anyway, at that time also Martin Holdgate had left BAS and was working as Chief Scientist at the Nature Conservancy, and Peter Tilbrook had taken over as temporary Head of Biology and they needed a replacement, and at that point Ted Smith was recruited. Now Ted had come from the Seals Research Unit, in Lowestoft. Ted was larger than life, which I think probably irritated a few people somewhat, but I met him when I was on the *Biscoe*, going round the bases, and got on very well with him, but he had an excellent view on actually organising field research on the seal work which I was able to talk to him about – but I've jumped out of order here a bit: Ted Smith was appointed, but I only met him after I'd

done the seal sampling on the ship, so when I left Signy on the *Biscoe* to do my trip round sampling the fish I did the biological sampling as I explained but the King Fid on board at the time, Alistair McArthur, another good organiser because he did . . . on the way down – it’s much more difficult than on the way home because you’ve got to get the Fids organised into doing various tasks in terms of cargo and interacting with the ship’s company in order to get all the jobs done, so he’d done a very good job of that so I was watching him carefully and I was asked to take over as King Fid from him because he got off, in Stonington I think, so I took over from him and it was after that that we had to do this project collecting seals for dog food. I don’t know whether it was 200 or 400 seals we were asked to collect and we’d also been asked to collect biological samples from them and we were given the materials to do that and I discussed this with Sir Vivian who was on board at the time and he said “Well, you’ve got to get all the seals as quickly as possible. The biological sampling has to wait.” And I thought “Well, all right . . .” [laughs] I said “Listen . . .” He said “You can take ten per cent would do”. I said “No it won’t do. It’s not enough. Ten percent of 400 seals – 40 seals – 20 of each sex, and you want to do a biological assessment on that? Forget it!” I said “It’s not worth it. You either do all or not at all. Do you want the biological sampling done?” And he said “Well, I can agree to you getting what you can.” So that’s all right, so I organised the Fids on board, and Tom Woodfield and the . . . they’d done sealing before and they knew what the form was, and the Bosun at the time, and Malcolm Phelps. They got it all sorted out. They put the long runner onto the for’ard derrick so they could go out and pull the seals in off the ice. I got my team organised so that as the seals came in I’d got a team for doing sex and the gonad state, removing the lower jaw because they wanted the teeth (because Dick Laws had demonstrated how to age crabeater seal from teeth) – all this – so in the end we were covered in blood and everything but we got all the samples out which was brilliant, and I think Fuchs respected me for doing that. It was a hell of an effort but we did it. As I said, it’s all or nothing, so we got away with that one. But after we’d done that it was then that Ted Smith arrived. Ted was the new head of the biology group, coming from the Seals Research Unit, so he was very pleased with what I’d done in getting these seal samples, so he was already thinking about next season and more biological sampling on any seals that needed to be taken for dog food. I thought it was great, because I think if you’re going to kill something you want to get maximum use from it. If you get a lot of scientific use out of it – really go for it. Brilliant. Anyway, Ted and I hit it off pretty well actually, with fairly chaotic . . . we haven’t got time to go into all the things about Ted, but for me when I got back he was extremely supportive and helpful in writing up my Ph.D., because I could prepare draft papers that I thought explained what I wanted to say, Ted would go through it, with the red pen, and say “Look, Inigo, do you mean this or do you mean that? What do you mean? Why are you doing this? What’s the significance of this? Do you need this later on, or not?” This improved the quality of my published papers no end, and I’m indebted to Ted for doing that. The other thing that Ted did was – he recognised that if Life Sciences were going to move forward it needed to break down the Head of Life Sciences post and have people underneath it, so the head of life sciences would co-ordinate it to the Director and all that lot through, but he would – could have their own research program, but it needed people at the next level down, and Ted’s vision was that you needed somebody to run terrestrial biology which was obviously Peter Tilbrook, and limnology which was obviously Barry Heywood. He wanted a marine biology group but I think his vision at the time, and also the vision of Martin Holdgate who’d preceded him, was that it needed a bigger more experienced name, so although I was talked about a little bit I wasn’t expecting to be kicked up the ladder quite so quickly, so soft pedal on that. I think they may have asked Ned Jones if he wanted to do it, and one or two other people but nobody did, so that was moving towards that at that time, when I got home, but a year after I arrived home we had the SCAR Biology Symposium in Cambridge, that Martin Holdgate organised. Now that was a fantastic showpiece for Antarctic biology in all its forms – Terrestrial, Fresh Water, Marine, Birds and Seals, Fish, Phytoplankton – everything, but for me it was a really great opportunity for a

number of things: firstly I was meeting Neil Mackintosh, who was a senior person on *Discovery* investigations, and he understood much more about krill than I think was evident from James Marr's extensive volume on the subject. So Mac was very good on krill, and then Prof. Hart was good on the primary production, and one or two others around. That made for a good symposium for the *Discovery* stuff – the sort of stuff that's in "Great Waters" (this book [*Inigo holds up the book by Sir Alister Hardy, which was right beside him*] is well worth reading – brilliant summary of *Discovery* investigations in that) – those people, and then on top of that there was John Galland who I'd met when I was working at Lowestoft. He was now the head of the Fish Resources Section in FAO in Rome. And there was also Soviets – Mussayev who'd been leading the Soviet krill fishery expansion, Makarov, and others like that. Meeting up with these people it was a great eye-opener and I was looking at this and I'm thinking "Crikey" – you know – "what's happening? There are things changing here." When I'd seen *Gnevny* and *Obdorsk* at Signy in 1965 . . . this is all coming home and fitting into place. The Soviets are thinking about doing something pretty big here. Unless there's a proper management put in place for all this lot it's going to go down the tubes very quickly, because it was obvious that North Sea fisheries were under a huge amount of pressure and I didn't want that to happen in the Antarctic. So this was already going through my head about what one needed to do for management at that time. That was sowing the seed for what comes up with CAMELAL later on, and BIOMASS program. And the other thing was seeing Martin Holdgate at work. Now Martin sat through all the papers that were delivered at that symposium. He was the organiser, and he sat through listening to all the papers, he was asking questions, people from the floor were asking questions, and the speakers were answering. Now Martin kept a record of everything that was said, and then at the end of each day he'd give people a note and say "Look, you said this. Is this what you wanted to say? – because I want to put this in the Discussion – in the Symposium" – the right thing, that a symposium ought to have. And I thought "This one bloke doing it? This is incredible!" It was. You've got to marvel . . . [*Recording cuts off suddenly at 1:37:37.*]

End of Part 1

[*Fades out and stops at 1.37.42*]

END.

Points of general interest:

PART ONE:

- [00:23:30] Fish demonstrate evolution better than finches do. (p.5)
- [00:29:10] The voyage South (p.6)
- [00:35:20] Kit issue and loading sandbags in Stanley (p.7)
- [00:43:00] Russian science (p.8, p.9, p.17)
- [00:43:43] A woman on Base (p.8)
- [00:49:3?] Setting a dislocated shoulder (p.9)
- [00:50:4?] A leaking oil tank (p.9)
- [00:??:??] Round the island by boat (p.9)
- [00:53:58] A skidoo through the sea ice (p10)
- [00:59:09] First Winter (p.11)
- [01:13:34] Appendicitis operation (p.13)
- [01:21:31] Fires in the Generator Shed (p.15)

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INIGO EVERSON (Part 2 of 3)

Edited transcript of a video interview with Inigo Everson at his home, conducted by John Tolson on 23rd January 2014. Transcribed by Simon Taylor on 24 Dec 2019.

[Part 2 0:00:00] Everson:

Martin Holdgate was absolutely fantastic. He sat through every paper in that symposium, no matter what the subject was – listened to it – he listened to the discussion that went on, made his own interjections as well – recorded everything, writing it down longhand (or I presume it was longhand) typed it all up and then gave to each person who'd made an intervention a copy of what he thought they'd said with 'was that what you wanted to say, because I want to include this in the text?' It was brilliant – exactly what a symposium's all about. It wasn't subjects that one would have expected somebody to be really interested in. He seemed to have an interest in the whole lot, whether it was physiology, taxonomy, zoogeography, distribution, I don't think . . . anything – he could ask questions on it, and also write coherently what people were saying. I thought it was incredible – incredible man. So no wonder he got pushed upstairs and became Chief Scientist to . . . I forget what it was post he got, and he ended up at R.U.C.N. [*sic, but should it be I.U.C.N?*] in Switzerland as Director of Science there.

[Part 2 0:01:22] Anyway, that symposium, which was an extremely good one, that Martin edited the two volumes of it – Antarctic Science – and it came out very well. But one of the things that came out of that was the recognition that there was the potential for developing an antarctic krill fishery. And this was causing . . . on the one hand it was causing some concern, because if the krill fishery expanded too rapidly this could impact the recovery of the great whales, on the other side it was 'Is this a potential source of protein to provide food for the Third World?' So you've got these two conflicting . . . the third world needs a lot of protein – a huge amount, maybe a hundred million tons of krill if you can take out – I don't know – but if you took that out how would the whales and seals react to that? So you've got an immediate scientific question that you've got to start looking at, and setting in place control measures on the fishery, before it starts going too mad.

[Part 2 0:02:38] So SCAR [*Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research*] – biology – and I think Martin Holdgate must have been a key player in setting this up – a group of specialists on Southern Ocean resources or whatever – I don't know what the name was – and El Said was appointed the chairman of it so he organised it and they had several meetings. Now I came in on this in about '73/'74 at a meeting in Canberra, Australia and then they needed somebody to review information on living resources of the southern ocean in order to write background papers because Said's vision was to have a major research program. I was taken on by F.A.O. [*Food and Agriculture Organisation*] under the guidance of John Galland again to review the living resources of the southern ocean, and that's an F.A.O. paper that came out in 1977. But the first part of that – outline papers and asking people to comment on them – came up, at the symposium that was organised by Said and the Americans, at Woods Hole – and that was the start of the BIOMASS program. Well, [?? *a word not understood*] big international meeting, lots of scientists from all over the world, and I'm thinking 'Whoa! I've got to be careful here', and I'd prepared these papers on fish, krill, zooplankton and other things and they were going to be taken in discussion meetings outside of the main plenary session. Plenary session comes up, and we had something on the Antarctic Treaty, and Antarctic marine biology and I'm sitting there, and 'Gosh, this is far bigger than I thought it was going to be! Getting a bit worried here, folks!' And then Time for Questions: Alson Hanson, one of the Americans (done a lot of work on primary production, photoplankton in the ocean), and he got up and asked a question, and it was a fairly rambling question that I didn't understand. Gotthilf Hempel from Germany (who's a fish biologist) – he stood up and

he said [*funny voice*] ‘Zatt, if I may say so, is a very stupid question!’ [*Inigo dissolves again into fairly incoherent hilarity*] Anyway, it broke the ice. The biologists got together and let the politico people go.

[Part 2 0:05:43] It was out of that that the BIOMASS program, meaning Biological Investigation of Marine Antarctic Systems and Stocks . . . The trouble is, having an acronym ‘biomass’ people think of biomass and they are thinking of millions of tons of krill. That was what we were trying to measure, but the program itself was called BIOMASS – that was the acronym. That had a number of working groups which worked very well. I was on the krill working group. . . some time. I chaired it for a few years. One of Said's . . . or in the fish working group – yes, I realised I was in trouble. We had the first meeting . . . in the Fish Working Group . . . in Hamburg, where Dietrich Saharga was the convenor of it (. . . the local . . . he's director of the Sea Fisheries Institute in Hamburg. A lovely bloke. I'd sailed with him on the *Walter Herwig*).

[Part 2 0:06:47] Fish working group started in session. I couldn't get there for the first day because of snow and I couldn't get out of Heathrow, so I had to wait and come out the following day. John Galland was there from F.A.O., and they'd all sat down on the working group meeting and had the first day's discussion and I arrived at the start of the second day. ‘Glad you're here, Inigo!’ and I said ‘What's happened?’ and they said ‘Oh well, you're Rapporteur!’ – for the meeting. And I said ‘What happened for the first day?’ and they said ‘Oh, you'll catch up! You'll find out.’ So I was reporting this flipping meeting, having arrived a day late because I couldn't get there on time. Galland had decided ‘I'm going to throw this bloke in at the deep end and see what he's like writing reports.’ Anyway, we got a good report out of it, and that worked. But that . . . my interaction with Saharga (he was the Director at Hamburg, as I said) and it was that institute that operated the *Walter Herwig* – which was the research ship that they (the West Germans) were sending on their first Antarctic expedition for something like fifty or a hundred years – I don't know. It was a long time since the last time they'd sent one out there.

[Part 2 0:08:24] So you'd got a lot of young enthusiastic scientists on board, without much Antarctic experience, and they wanted on board somebody who knew antarctic fish, and other bits and pieces, so I was natural. The other person that came along was Claude Roger, a Frenchman who'd worked on krill in the temperate waters, so knew the ???[*inforzes ? (word not recognised)*] very well, Teodoro Stadler who was an Argentinian, simply because the Germans wanted to sort of butter up to the Argentinians (a lovely bloke, very good, I think held back by the system though) and the other bloke was Arthur Baker from I.O.S. in Wormley. Arthur had a huge amount of experience on *euphorsids* in various oceans, and operating the R.M.T net, so he was able to show them how to do it, and set it up so that they could use it on the *Walter Herwig*.

[Part 2 0:09:28] So between us on the three research cruises on board the *Herwig* we covered just about all of the bases. But the thing about – couple of things – when I when I was on *Herwig* one of the things that I was worried about with marine biological sampling – oceanographic sampling – was people do one sample and then move twenty miles and do another one and I wanted to know what happens if you keep sampling at the same place, so I convinced the scientific leader Tilmann Pomeranz ‘Can we have four or five days to do a time station, and what we'll do is every six hours we'll do an R.M.T haul and a C.T.D. just to see how the water's changing and how the species composition is changing, with depth, with time of day and with time ???[*inaudible comment about time, 0:10:30*]

[Part 2 0:10:30] And that worked very well, but it gave me even closer insights into organising research cruises – how you interface the various components and also getting the

right people around at the right time, because there was an occasion when all of the German scientists had done all hours that were available to them as far as their trade union was concerned so that they couldn't operate when we got to the thing . . . and I thought 'You can't let this go' so Theo Claude and I, we did the station informally, but it wasn't meant to be like that. But never mind, we got the samples in on the day which was good. It was very encouraging, that – also being able to work from the *Weser*, which was a commercial ship that they sent down to evaluate the resources, and I had a week or so on her, looking at the way they operated. They were good fishermen – they knew what they were at and they put tons of fish on . . . fifty tons of *notothenia rossii* in one haul – several hauls like that. You wouldn't see that now. It just shows you what could be achieved by the fellows on the ground there.

[Part 2 0:11:54] Tolson:

Going back some years earlier, after your Ph.D., what track did you take on then – what did you think was going to actually happen with your career?

Everson:

Well in truth I didn't know, because when I joined BAS it was to do a marine biology project. I'd always seen that as a jumping-off point for doing something else, and I was looking to do fisheries work somewhere else in the world, and I wasn't really bothered where it might be, so I was looking to see what the Overseas Development Administration and people like that were doing, where job opportunities might come. So I was in the mood to . . . as soon as I'd finished my Ph.D. I was ready to move out. But at that time Ted Smith left. He was setting up a concert hall in Bishop's Stortford, from an old maltings . . . looks like a Benjamin Britten-type thing, so he left. But before he left, and he'd done this groundwork setting up Barry Heywood and Pete Tilbrook as members of staff, leading sections there, he wanted to make sure that there was a decent progression through the Biology Unit.

[Part 2 0:13:13] So it was he who introduced Dick Laws back to BAS, because Dick had just come back from East Africa where he'd been working in Tsavo and the other national parks on elephants and large mammals. He brought Dick over to BAS meet the crew, and Dick came in and sat down and asked me about my fish work, and immediately I'd found somebody who I could actually talk to at the sort of level that I wanted to about the fish work, because there was nobody in BAS – by that time we were out at Monk's Wood and the Monk's Wood people were all terrestrial biologists ???[unclear] fish biologists looking at that sort of thing, although they had other interests that it was worth picking up on. So I was able to explain to Dick what I was thinking about this and putting that together with the ideas that had been coming through in my mind from the SICAS Cambridge symposium. Dick and I struck up a very good working relationship so that – and that lasts right the way through, in spite of whatever else has been going on . . .

[Part 2 0:14:42] Now at that time there was an offshore BAS project being planned for South Georgia, partly to take over Shackleton House and have a lab there, but also to have a marine biology component. And somehow or other there was some . . . I don't know where this came from, but they wanted a small research ship to operate out of South Georgia. I've never known the detail of this but the ship was called the *Jane*, after one that went to the South Orkneys very early on when they were discovered, but it was about a ten, fifteen metre inshore steel boat and I was asked if I want to go and work at South Georgia, on krill, and this sort of thing, and fish. And I thought 'Well, OK. I've not got firm offers outside. Let's see how that goes.' So I was engaged to do this. When I was told about the *Jane* I got in touch with my friends at Lowestoft and told them what was happening and after they'd picked themselves up off the floor from falling about laughing the first question was 'Who's your replacement?' Oh! What am I doing here? 'That boat won't be any good there. It won't last

at all. Forget it! If there's the money available and you can change it you want to buy one of the side trawlers that's being laid up in Lowestoft at the moment from the North Sea fleet, a hundred, a hundred and twenty foot. That would do the job for you.' So I went down to a couple of companies there and got quotes and offers on ships and that and took it back and handed it in to the system, but no! no! no!, NERC had already gone too far with the plans for the *Jane*, it was already being built, on Teeside, and it had got . . . it was a complete dog's breakfast. The engine cooling system was a load of pipes underneath the hull, so that must have been a right place for corrosion and ???[unclear] and all sorts of things to slow the damn thing down. I didn't go to the launching of it, but Dick did and he told me about it. Instead of going down a slipway it would be picked up on a crane and dunked in the water. Dick thought this was quite humorous to start with, until you think of the severity of the situation about this boat. And he said the builders climbed on board and all over it and they came back on to the shore and they said to Dick 'It doesn't leak!', and Dick's comment was 'That's something of a relief, isn't it?'. Oh! We've never had one like that before! Anyway, so they were going to ship the *Jane* south on the deck of some ship, and offload it somewhere else. But it never got off the ground. It was a complete white elephant. When it was completed it did work for Plymouth, and wasn't allowed out of the Tamar estuary. It was that dreadful. Expected . . . with Nick Hill, Geoff Ludgrove and myself sailing this ship across from Montevideo down to South Georgia. Completely stupid!

[Part 2 0:18:48] Anyway, having been given a contract to do this, and set up a marine biology base at K.E.P., at that point Andy Clark had been recruited. Now he's brilliant – really top-rate science graduate, with breadth (far more than I've got) because Andy covered . . . he'd got an interest in Geology, which took him on different time scales to the sort of biological time scales that I'm thinking about. So it was a good compliment to my thoughts – not necessarily the most useful thing for somebody working on krill directly but it brings ideas to the way you understand the operating of the system – the ecosystem down there. So Andy was good. But we went down there. We arrived on South Georgia. All the best labs had been occupied by the botanists – Ron Smith and that lot from Stanley Green's group in Birmingham, so there weren't any labs in Shackleton House, and in any case we wanted one where we could have running seawater, so we set up in the old Discovery House. Now, that hadn't been used properly for years, so the first month or two on base Andy and I cleaned out what we wanted to have as our lab and then fitted it out with plumbing and electrics. I'd got some experience of doing this at Signy, but with people like Dave Hill and Dad Etchells and John Gallsworthy they'd show us something and we'd get on and do it, so they could rely on us and they'd check we'd done it and if ???[unclear] it went back, so it was an opportunity to learn a lot of skills. There's not many people who when they arrive in the Antarctic the first thing they've got to do is to build their own base which is what Andy did, and came through it well . . . learned a lot from it, so that was very good. We started the thing going, and because the *Jane* wasn't ??[unclear – 'going to be there?'] we needed an inshore boat. BAS wanted to get an inshore boat to do it and they got the Crown Agents to sort this one out. I thought Crown Agents'd been building boats to go all round the world, so I didn't worry too much about it 'til they'd built it. And this thing that they'd built . . . they'd built it out of steel because it had to withstand ice – it only had about that much freeboard [*demonstrates, but only one hand can be seen in the video*] and it was extremely heavy. It was brought out on the deck of a ship. I wasn't there when it had arrived. We called it *Yoldio*, the name of one of the bivalve molluscs that's present in the area. The team irreverently called it the *Splode*. (Dreadful bunch they were.) Anyway, a couple of people were on it and they said 'Look, this is dangerous!' and I arrived on base (I was working with Bob Ralph again) and I'd got problems getting this marine biology team operating effectively – they hadn't gelled as a group as I'd wanted them to . . . so this needed to be . . . on top of this they'd got a work boat which they didn't trust. We had a storm when we were ashore at K.E.P. – wind blowing in from direction of Hodges, so that's coming straight on towards the jetty. The *Splode* as they

called it was tied up to the jetty. These waves came along and they just went up and they filled the boat and it just sank, straight away. And I just went down as it was filling up, and then it had gone! And I thought 'Oh God! What do we do now? We're in real trouble.' Fortunately that summer I'd had to recruit a diver for South Georgia – Diving Officer – and the person I recruited was John Hall.

[Part 2 0:23:16] Now John wasn't the best qualified diver, but when he explained what he was doing . . . he was a secondary school teacher and he was dealing with the recalcitrant ones, the naughty boys, the ones no other teacher could deal with, and what he'd done – he'd got these students to build a pig sty and chicken runs and allotments and that, and they were looking after these animals and going and mucking 'em out at the weekends, and he'd really got 'em fired up, and I thought a diving officer who can dive, but is not the highest qualified – he's got a qualification, he's got sufficient there for that – but he's also used to dealing with awkward people . . . is a dead cert! So John was brilliant. Absolutely brilliant, because I said to him 'What do we do? Do we leave that boat where it's sunk, or shall we try and raise it?' Because we'd got problems because the marine biology team – they hadn't got confidence in diving. Here's a good example of something that we can do as a diving activity. So we got John Carter and Abdul (I don't know what his . . . J.C. and Abdul). They got a load of empty 40-gallon [*c.209-litre*] drums and they welded them together in groups of three. John and I had about six of these, about a dozen or eighteen of these forty-gallon drums, which John and I dived down . . . we filled the forty-gallon drums up with water so they'd sink, tied them to the boat in various positions and then with an air-line we just filled these forty-gallon drums up (the openings were down) with air so all the water came out and eventually it raised the thing, so we got it up so we could tow it round at high tide and beach it and then took it further round, drying it out. And then there were two things: I don't think head office were very pleased about it because they didn't want to see the blasted thing again, but we'd done a good diving exercise, and we'd demonstrated to the people on base that you could do decent diving jobs there. John Hall could organise the diving and get the thing going and knew what he was talking about and they'd believe him. So diving started taking off at that point, which was good. I took all the expanded polystyrene out of the hull which was put in for buoyancy and I measured it all up and it was about three tons less than was necessary to keep the thing afloat if it was full of water. It was dreadful. Somebody should have been culpable for it, but never mind. In the end the replacement workboats we got from Chevertons in Cowes, and they were very good. But that's another story. So that was an introduction to South Georgia, and setting things up.

[Part 2 0:26:47] Sorry, I've jumped ahead again, but when Andy and I were on base first of all, in 1970, Dick was down – he'd been with me at South Georgia to start with and then gone on Signy to look at the base and see what . . . the potential for work there – and while he was on base he'd been talking to some of the marine biologists there, people like Eric Twells, Owen Darling and company and they'd convinced him that you could do some marine biology sampling from *Biscoe*, if you'd get us a few days we can do some benthic sample out of the way of the immediate Borge Bay area. I don't know whether it came from Dick suggesting it or the lads on base, I wasn't with them at the time, but they set up and they did some sampling and this convinced Dick that it was worth having a go at, so we set up SOBS – the South Orkneys Benthic Survey. For this Eric Twells had designed an Agassi Trawl three metres wide (I'll show you a photograph of it that you can use) with a sufficient length net that you could hoist it on the for'ard derrick of *John Biscoe* and the cod end would be about deck level, and you could pull it over and then lower it down. I took over that, as the senior marine biologist there, to do that. That was at a time when we had a really brilliant bunch on *Biscoe*. Chris Elliott was Mate at the time and Peter Crockford was Bosun, and they interacting with us got a system. We biologists, we Fids, wanted to coil the rope down – we'd got about five hundred metres or more of rope – and we've coiled it down on the hatch

cover, and Chris said 'Look, that's going to put twists in it, and after a couple of days of it no amount of swivels would take the twists out'. Chris decided the thing to do was to open the hatch near to the drum end of the winch, put a tarpaulin down in a cargo net, and then allow the rope just to drop into it. And Chris was quite adamant. He said 'Just drop it in! Don't try and coil it in any way! Just let it drop!' Because when you come to let it out it won't snag and you won't ???[jumbled words]. And it worked brilliantly! Funnily enough I've used that system again, when I had a similar thing to do in the Indian Ocean a couple of years ago. They were using vertical long lines with about five hundred metres of warp on, vertically, and they were coiling down on the deck of the ship, and I said 'Look, that'll twist.' 'No, No, No! It won't!' Anyway, eventually, due to various other circumstances I was able to tell them and show them exactly what I needed to do, and I had two cubic-metre plastic bins which I wanted for some fish experiments but couldn't do and I told them 'Look, you just let the stuff drop in there, and you can use it!' And it worked brilliantly. So, Chris and Pete Crockford – they were very very good influentially [?], and that demonstrated that BAS could do marine biology from a ship, like the *Biscoe*, which was the justification for the Offshore Biological Program which came in later. But I've jumped ahead again on something else as well . . .

[Part 2 0:31:02] Another thing that Ted Smith did, bringing his experience at the Seals Unit, was – he said that BAS ought to be using inflatables to do landings, because up to that time they'd been landings in launches, and it was very difficult for the ship's officer and the boatman to get the boat in to a suitable landing rock to get people and their equipment off dry and get them back, and back on the ship. Ted said that you want inflatables for this. He wasn't really heard to start with, but when it came for *Biscoe*'s sailing date, in '67 I think it was, Ted said 'I'm going to show them how to use an inflatable.' So he borrowed one from . . . I don't know whether it was the R.N.L.I. or R.F.D. at the time . . . and he towed it on a trailer behind his car down to Southampton, and when the *Biscoe* (with all the big knobs were all around, and that around) Ted was going to come in driving this thing at high speed around with our Secretary Jill Sibley (she was quite a good looker – slim, but dim as a NAAFI candle, she was . . .) anyway, drive around and demonstrate the manoeuvrability of the boat, and then say 'Now look here, this is what you need on the *Biscoe*!'. The first problem was that driving it down on Ted's trailer one of the tubes had chafed on the frame, so it'd got a hole in it, so Ted was carving a chunk of wood and stuffing it . . . and blowing it up. So we had to keep blowing this up. And then he was driving it round, with Jill – you know . . . But then sadly one of the crew on the *Biscoe* had had rather a lot to drink and fell into the water. This was sailing day. Ted immediately heard about it, zoomed up, pulled this fellow out and we got him onto the thing but he was already dead. I think he'd had a heart attack and that took him out, which was very sad but it was also a very clear demonstration that that was something that you could use for a quick deployment – it was good for getting people about and it would be ideal for getting shore parties in. The person I think who really noticed that at the time was Chris Elliott. I think that must have been his first season, because Chris really took to the *Zodiacs* in a big way and they figured a hell of a lot in landings after that, and it was extremely good. I mean, Chris was very good on a number of accounts like that. OK? That's that bit in.

[Part 2 0:33:50] Having demonstrated through the SOBS program that we could do marine sampling from the *Biscoe* the opportunity was then put to us to look at offshore pelagic biology – oceanography, and this would be a major step change for us, and Dick was very keen to see this going because I think he could see that there was merit in developing that work, particularly as a result of the BIOMASS program wanting krill research to be done, and my involvement in it, because I think he saw me as being a key person within that. At that time also we got Nigel Bonner on board as head of Life Sciences Division. I've only just introduced him here, but Nigel was from the Sea Mammal Research Unit and as well as being a very good seal and whale biologist he had . . . a really top rate natural historian, whether it's

plants or insects or whatever, and a really good communicator – a good lecturer as well. So we'll come back to him in a minute. But we'd got this encouragement, with now Nigel as our head, to set up an Offshore Biological Program. Now we needed first of all to beg, steal and borrow whatever we could to start doing it, to demonstrate we could do the oceanography from *Biscoe*, so what happened was . . . we had a good working relationship with the Plymouth group, particularly IMER – the Institute of Marine Environmental Research. The Director there was Sir Alan Longhurst who was very very supportive of the project and encouraged us no end, and gave lots of good advice. I think he was also a personal friend of Dick as well, and I got to know him very well. (He's just written another book which is really good as well, but anyway, can't go there!) They were very good. It was at I.O.S. – Institute of Oceanographic Sciences . . . Peter David, the Head of Biology there – he was not at all forthcoming . . . asking questions to which we would not have had the answers and what we wanted to do, and this sort of thing, and so it didn't work at his level, but lower down – people like Arthur Baker particularly, and Howard Roe and company – they were very good, and gave us advice on setting up the R.M.T and so on, to do sampling. We got a couple of winches from the Research Vessel Base in Barry. Ah! These were wrecks! They were dreadful! You could see why nobody had them on a ship, because they were so hopeless! This Trawl Winch was driven by a diesel engine . . . Bom! Bom! Bom! Bom! Bom! Bom! Bom! Bom! . . . This was mounted on the after deck. The lights in the deckhead underneath – the bulbs just were continually blowing because of all the vibration coming out of it. And we had this other one, an oceanographic winch which was pretty hopeless as well. But anyway, we did sampling. That once again was thanks to the various . . . we couldn't have done it without the ship's company really helping. I mean, Josh Garner as Third Mate – an absolute card actually, but we needed characters like that to help us and see the thing through.

[Part 2 0:37:51] We didn't get much in the way of actual hard science out of it, but we demonstrated that we could operate gear and sample from it, which justified the major refit that the *Biscoe* had the following season, where they took off the poop deck house, which we'd been using as a small lab., and they installed a trawl winch and a gantry to go out. Now, all this refit was done at Liverpool, at a yard . . . I wouldn't be surprised if it was the only one that hadn't gone bankrupt by the time we'd got there, with standard policy going to the lowest tenderer this was probably the cheapest one. Anyway, there were all sorts of problems with that. There was thieving going on on bits of the ship. I think the wheel was taken. Propeller bearings were . . . will you imagine that? . . . trying to get the propeller bearings out of a ship, onto the deck, dropping it into the drydock, and out without any security guards seeing or hearing it. There must be collusion somewhere there. Crazy! Anyway, there were clearly financial problems with the yard and Chris Elliott [*now Captain*] wanted to set sail as soon as possible so he gave the orders . . . shore leave ends, make sure all of your people are on board – if they're not on board they can make their own way home. (We were going out on sea trials.) Chris did tell me that they were worried about a writ being nailed to the mast, because . . . unpaid debts and all this sort of thing, so they wanted to get out before anything like that could be done. So we sailed on the evening tide and set off out into Liverpool Bay fairly slowly while the crew tried to find out where the various bits and pieces were, got up to off Anglesey. I'm sure it was Simon Taylor who was Chief Engineer at the time, he just couldn't understand what the pipes were going where. He didn't know what was in what. So overnight we went down the Irish Sea and anchored up in Ballycotton Bay, for several days while Simon and the Engineers just took it to bits, and see just what was coming through – whether it was fresh water or salt water or fuel or what coming out of the . . . it was crazy! We were trying to sort out how the various bits worked. I was trying to find out how the new echo sounder worked on the ship – bits and pieces like that. I remember Tony North touching one of the . . . there was metal air vents all the way round and he touched that and woo! He got 240 volts out of it. I got this fairly terse telex message from Nigel Bonner, asking me to report what had happened, and I thought 'How long a list do you want?', so I

sent this message back with a few examples of teething problems, you know 'we're getting fresh air out of the taps, 240 volts through the air vents . . . ', and Nigel told me off for being so flippant. But eventually it was all sorted out, and that Lebus winch was quite something as well. They'd been asked to supply a line out meter, and this was a very complicated piece of kit and it took some time to get it working, and it produced numbers as line went out and line came back in again, but it didn't seem to ???[work?] quite with the amount of line that we'd been using. We finally worked out that it was measuring the length of the wire in third-of-a-metre – it wasn't a foot and it wasn't a metre, or a yard or a fathom or anything like that. A Third of a Metre. So we christened these 'Metric Lebi' – (Lebus winch). And they had this engineer who was problem solving on it, and his main tool was a monkey wrench, and WD40. That's as far as he went as far as servicing was concerned. 'Catweasel' I think the crew christened him. He was hopeless.

[Part 2 0:42:24] Anyway, we finally got it going. We got the other various bits and the *Biscoe* sailed and we did the next O.B.P. Cruise and got some useful stuff out of it. I was hoping there would be an opportunity to show you some echo charts from that because it demonstrated . . . the difference between day and night . . . how important it was to get scheduling of sampling through the day clearly defined, because looking at a large krill swarm, on that first survey, we got very small compact swarms, and then going over the same area at night it was black all over the echo chart. The acoustic signal that came back was less at night, when it was spread out everywhere, than it was in day when it was concentrated. And I wrote this up as a useful paper. But I'm not sure whether this was a thresholding effect or the other one which was associated with the orientation of the krill, because as the krill are horizontal, like this [*demonstrates*], the sound is coming vertically down so it's reflected back, so you've got a larger area reflected. If the krill is swimming up or down you've got a much smaller area to reflect, and that's frequency dependent as well as dependent on the orientation. So I didn't know whether it's because at night the krill were going even more all over the place than they were by day. That interested me in trying to follow up the target strength of krill subsequently, which is what I did on a study at South Georgia, and there I'd got my colleagues Doug Bone, Jon Watkins, Roger Coggan and Bill Graham. We did this study at Stromness – after some time we homed in on Stromness Harbour as being the ideal one to go into because that had good quality seawater from the surface down to the bottom. Cumberland Bay is hopeless because in the summer you get a lot of melt water coming down the glaciers and that puts a layer of fresh water, which might be several metres thick, at the surface, so there's no point in trying to do any sensible work on things in that surface layer – we had to do it. Doug did a brilliant job setting up the cages to do the acoustic sampling and we had all the gear out there, and with Jon Watkins we had a really good team . . . actually we had a brilliant . . . we really enjoyed it there, great fun, because we were isolated. We were away from the mainstream of things. Communication was even more difficult because we had to call up on the VHF radio with any messages that we wanted to give out, either to the *Biscoe* if it was immediately in the area or to Bird Island. So we talked to Bird Island on the radio and we got this telex message we'd like to send to Headquarters, so that was all all right. And then incoming telex messages they'd receive at Bird Island and they'd pass them over on the radio to us. And this was one of the best wind-ups I've seen actually . . . because at that time Nigel Bonner had retired and Barry Heywood had become Deputy Director, and he'd taken over as . . . no, he'd moved up even further because it was David Drewry who was Director – Barry was Deputy Director so the Head of Life Sciences was open. I'd applied for it previously, and been turned down. The post had been given to Barry in favour. That's fine – no regrets about that. When the thing came up again because Barry'd become Deputy Director, what I didn't want was anybody at NERC putting in one of their people to start telling us how we should run our ??[unclear – -selves?]. I wanted it to be BAS doing it, so I wanted to make sure that at least there was a BAS involvement when it came to the interview level – for selection. So I asked if my application could be copied in again. I don't know

which of them it was, whether it was Dad, Doug, John, Roger, and in collusion with the Bird Island lot – they said there was a message come in from Headquarters saying that NERC can't accept faxed-in applications. It has to be a proper hard copy, properly signed by the applicant. So you could only do that when you're back home, and the closing date was before we left base so there was no way I could do that. Anyway, and I saw this and . . . 'You . . . The swine! They're preventing me applying by changing the rules!' and all this sort of thing. So I drafted a really stinging reply that I sent out. Well, it went as far as Bird Island, who didn't send it any further but on the radio between Bird Island and my lot they decided what they were going to say on the next one, so they waited four or five days for gestation period for the thing to come back again, and there was several iterations on this wind-up to say why my application couldn't be accepted . . . I was getting steam coming out of the ears when these came . . ., and it was only on our final night there, the sort of last supper, sitting round the table that they 'fessed up to it. They couldn't understand why I hadn't seen that I'd been got. For several weeks this had gone on. It was brilliant! So well engineered – you couldn't think of a better way of doing it. Do you know who did it? It was Doug and Jon Watkins, I'm sure.

[Part 2 0:49:15] Tolson:

I think it was, yes. I think it was Doug was very deep in it. But on a purely scientific side of that project – a tremendous success?

Everson:

Oh yes! I think . . . Target Strengths Study. It demonstrated something that I'd been saying at CAMLR meetings, and the BIOMASS meetings, analysing the data. The target strength of krill that's being used is far too high, because what you're doing: you're taking the equivalent target strength from a fish that has a swim bladder (of equivalent size), whereas you should be looking at fish that don't have swim bladders. Krill don't have swim bladders – it's just the protein and the carapace that's reflecting, so it's got to be a lot lower than a fish with a swim bladder. I'd been adamant about that and I'd been told I was wrong, so I had to go and do this empirical experiment which is why – this Stromness experiment, and it did demonstrate that the T.S. difference was something like about 6 or 7 db, which was exactly what I'd thought (I mean it was in the sort of realm I'd thought . . .) it should be, which was good, and that meant that we could put a much better T.S. estimate onto the acoustic surveys that had been done. Now, come back from South Georgia, because out of the BIOMASS program one of the main initiatives was a field sampling program called FIBEX – First International Biomass EXperiment – and what El Said and the group wanted was an acoustic survey of krill, and they wanted a group to set up the survey designed for it, and I was asked if I'd chair that. Now, I'd got some ideas for doing this, but I was very new on acoustics so I called in Ian Hampton who I knew from the Sea Fisheries Institute in Cape Town, and also Dick suggested bringing in George Jolley from the Agricultural Research Council lab. in Edinburgh – he's a statistician – so they'd got acoustics, I'd got krill biology, George had got the statistics – so we'd got the key components. I'd got the nucleus there for the team I needed. It had to be a bit more international, so I had to bring in the Soviets, and I got Lyubimova who . . . she didn't understand acoustics. She understood something about net sampling for krill, and she was sceptical of the whole thing, and in the end we had to say 'Look, this is the way we're going to do it', and I didn't like doing that but she just was digging her feet in all the time. So we set up the system for the FIBEX survey, which Ian and George took forward and developed even further for the surveys for sardine and pilchard off South Africa, which was good, so it'd become the Jolley and Hampton Method, but that's the origins of it, in the FIBEX Survey. So, that FIBEX survey comes about, we're getting . . . trying to . . . joined in on that on the third O.B.P. Cruise. . . *Biscoe* sets sail going south and we were all ready to leave and suddenly got this message in that one of the blades had fallen off the propeller, of

John Biscoe. ‘Oh God! It doesn't look like we're going to do much sampling!’ So we couldn't take part in FIBEX. I think . . . did Andy Baker dive on it and inspect? . . .

[Part 2 0:53:20] Tolson:
He did, yes.

Everson:

. . . and then they drydocked and took one of the blades off or something, and did something and the ship was able to get home on two blades instead of four, and that needed replacing and working on. That's another story. But analysing the FIBEX data, the rules within BIOMASS were that the people who did the analysis were the people who actually did the surveys. Well *Biscoe* hadn't participated in the survey, so Dick and I had to do some nifty footwork to get B.A.S. included on the analytical group to do the analysis, because we hadn't provided any data to it, but we had a major input into the design. So this came through – it wasn't analysed as well as I would have hoped on the first time round, so we had to have a second data analysis meeting and do the analysis exactly according to the survey, and got the biomass estimates out. Those were used by CAMLR subsequently to set the precautionary total allowable catch for krill. So this BIOMASS program, starting off at the Cambridge meeting through the various iterations and the survey design, the survey itself was then being used thirty years later in CAMLR – Commission for Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources [*sic*]. That was that part of the BIOMASS program. The other thing that was happening at that time was my review work at F.A.O. was coming forward, and that was being taken and considered by the Antarctic Treaty nations, because it was recognised that they were going to need some form of convention to deal with living resources in the Southern Ocean. So after my work at F.A.O. – that contract was finished – I presented the results at the treaty meeting, and they went into a huddle and came up with various things that needed to be done and out of that came CAMLR – Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in 1980 and had its first meeting in 1982. Now 1982 was an important year for a number of reasons.

[Part 2 0:56:17] Tolson:
???[*inaudible – pause for adjustment to the recording*]

Everson:

1981 and 1982 there were very critical years for BAS because of funding problems, and this had gone on for a long time. Over the years the BAS funds had been eroded, for want of a better term, by NERC, and it had gone down to approximately half what it was when BAS was taken into NERC in 1967, and there was talk about closing a base, single ship operation and all sorts of things like that, and these were being seriously considered, and I know it was a great worry to Dick at the time. And one discussion took place with the Germans because Gotthilf Hempel (the one who made the interjection at the first BIOMASS meeting), he was looking to establish an antarctic biology – well, antarctic science – group (he saw that as being a good thing to do) and I think he'd been instrumental along with Dietrich Sahagara in getting West Germany into the Antarctic Treaty system and they were keen to do their bit in terms of science. Hempel . . . he's a very canny bloke, and he wanted to see as much as possible about how the different operators worked, so that he could build his institute based on what he saw as good practice elsewhere. BAS was seen as being extremely effective in all sorts of different spheres, so he was looking to BAS for quite a lot of input, and he wanted to look at the marine biology side, the oceanographic side, so there was an arrangement – I don't know the detail of it – but essentially what happened was that Hempel's group put on board I think eight scientists onto *Biscoe* to do marine biology sampling for a month after our main O.B.P. cruise. Included in that they put a small container down in the for'ard hold on *Biscoe* as a laboratory – a laboratory container. Just as well you people could measure things up

properly otherwise it wouldn't have fitted in! Anyway, it did. It worked very well, that laboratory. It didn't have any windows or anything like that, but it worked well. So Hempel was setting that up, and so we did our O.B.P. cruise, which was a survey around South Georgia, which we haven't got time to go into the detail of: it was R.M.T.s and C.T.D.s, acoustics and this sort of thing all the way through. That took us a month, and we got a huge amount of data from – it worked very well. Then we did a couple of time stations – drift station type of things – as another part of the program, and then we went across to Ushuaia to collect the German team. This was in January 1982. They arrived all keen to go and we all set off and we did work down in the Bransfield Strait area, which worked very well. They were a good bunch – what was a bit of a surprise, there were four women as part of their team which was a bit of a departure for BAS activities then. It's commonplace now, but . . . so this meant that washrooms and toilets had to be segregated and all the other bits and pieces and so on. But they all seemed to fit in well and we had a good cruise there.

[Part 2 1:01:02] On that one, actually – the Germans like a celebration and a party now and again and they wanted to cross the Polar Circle. So we included the sample . . . this was Hempel's initiative, there wasn't anything scientific about this bit – just get as far south as we can – get across the Polar Circle! So we went across the Polar Circle and we had a celebration – glasses of bubbly and various things, and an initiation for the Germans having crossed the Polar Circle, which . . . it's like Crossing the Line except it's got cold water all the time. It's bloody cruel actually, but anyway everybody enjoyed it and we were all doing a . . . and I remember Barry Heywood picking up one of the hosepipes that was running from the fire hose and stuffing it down Hempel's waterproof trousers so it filled his boots up and his trousers with freezing water. Hempel had to laugh! I don't think Barry got any retribution as a result of it. It was all taken in good part, but . . . it was a good session on board, that was. Yeah. Anyway, Hempel got off the ship, I think at King George Island, because he had business of his own. He flew home via Chile, and the rest of us completed our sampling program working in the Bransfield Strait and around, and ended up back in the Falklands. This was early March by that time. No we didn't! We ended up at South Georgia because we needed to pick some people up and do some things and the Germans wanted to see our aquarium facility – something we'd had a lot of problems with over the years because we just couldn't get it right. We don't need to go there. We left some of our people who wanted to do shore-based work at South Georgia and then went across to Stanley for the remainder of us who were going back to U.K. to get off and carry on home. While I was there I went to the museum – John Smith's museum – and he'd got a stamp for the German Consulate in Stanley in about 1890 or something. The Consul was something like Hugo Schlottfeldt [*Schlottfeldt* – *ref. falklandsbiographies.org*], and the Germans thought this would be a huge joke to send Hempel a letter saying he'd met these young scientists from his institute, in Stanley. They were extremely polite, very well-behaved, doing lots of very good science and he hoped that they could be fully supported for years to come. They couldn't write this themselves because they knew Hempel would recognise their handwriting, so I wrote it out for them and we stamped . . . so we put it in the post, you see, and sent it off. Apparently this arrived on Hempel's desk the day after the invasion of the Falklands, but he saw the joke and they thought it was good and congratulated all the . . . it bonded well – welded the whole lot together. He enjoyed . . . I mean, Hempel does like a joke. So that was good, but the sad thing about all that was when we were in Stanley on that visit . . . the Governor's . . . Rex Hunt? He'd put on a reception for the team and the Germans at Government House, so we went along there and had a few drinks and . . . I remember his wife, actually. She'd had a few to drink and she was telling Malcolm Phelps and myself that she'd got this little trampoline thing, and she did some exercise on it – dancing up and down. So Malcolm and I asked her to demonstrate, so she stood there with her gin and tonic bouncing up and down on this little trampoline. Rex Hunt came in and said 'I think the party's over now'. So Malcolm and I were ushered out and back to the ship. But it was clear that something was amiss at that time,

because there'd been odd air activities going on that the local people had noticed and you could see about it, and so there was a sense of urgency about the platoon. In fact we flew out from Stanley in middle of March and got home OK, but when . . . no we didn't. We didn't, somebody took . . . I forget. We went up to Montevideo to fly home, and when we got to Montevideo there was another Marine platoon got on board the *Biscoe*, and *Biscoe* was sent straight back down. And it was soon after that that the invasion took place. And at that time . . . there were all sorts of problems then. I was in U.K. at the time getting ready to go to a meeting in Tokyo as part of the BIOMASS program, and Dick was coming out there for it as well. A couple of days after the invasion the Royal Geographical Society set up a meeting by Lord Shackleton on the geography of the Falklands crisis, and he'd got several key members of his staff to give keynote papers, which . . . quite lengthy ones, and I was invited to give five minutes on South Georgia fisheries and things like that. Anyway, I listened to the Shackleton's man telling us all about fish and fisheries in the Southern Ocean, and what had been going on and what had needed to be done, and I thought 'This is just not right. It's wrong!' So he kept on for his full twenty-five minutes, half an hour or what it was and then after that I had five minutes to give my subject.

[Part 2 1:08:06] Tolson:
[*indistinct comment while adjusting the recording*]

Everson:

Five minutes to explain my subject. So I got up to the podium and I said 'Before I start I've got to put you right on some of the facts that the previous speaker's been talking about' and I just went through, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang. By this time the yellow light had come up, and before I'd started the red light was there and Shackleton was looking at me, pressing the red light, and I said 'No! I'm starting and I'm going to finish!' and I went through what I wanted to say in my five minutes – sort of thing and that's all right – 'Thank you very much.' And at the dinner afterwards this fellow had been sent over by Shackleton to 'make sure you understand everything that's about this from Everson because he seems to know what he's talking about'. Got into hot water on that one. Anyway the day after, I flew out with . . . actually Sir George Deacon was with me at that time. He was from *Discovery* investigations – lovely bloke – and we flew out together to Tokyo for this meeting. He was old, because he'd been actually working on *Discovery* investigations, in the twenties, and he'd retired but he maintained an interest in the Antarctic. So he and I got on . . . initially it was pretty frosty – the first few meetings I had with him, but subsequently he'd mellowed and he realised that I was on the level and we could work together. So we went out there for this first meeting and then Dick came out for the group of specialist meetings, and he and I shared a room together during that period. It was clear that . . . he couldn't tell me about things but there were all sorts of tensions going on about the invasion, and one of the things we didn't know was what was the fate of the scientific team at South Georgia, who were captured. Because they were just taken away, and the Argentinian view was because they're not military they're spies, so they don't qualify for repatriation or anything like that. I think it was ten days or a fortnight before we got news of what had happened to them, and they'd been kept in and . . . eventually I think the Red Cross negotiated and got them out, [*splutter of protest*] obviously they weren't spies – they were running a research station. Some of them had gone into the hills, but . . . It was a very trying time for those people who were involved in it (were taken prisoner) but also those who were involved in the fieldwork around it. You have to ask them how they felt about it, but certainly from our end, being with Dick, it was a very trying time indeed. Anyway they all came back but it meant that we lost the research station at South Georgia that we'd built up from the original thing with Andy Clark in 1970. So that had gone, which was a shame [*? – indistinct*]. So after that – I had this meeting in Tokyo and then I had to go out to . . . there was another meeting I was going to – that was the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission meeting that was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and I'd been

invited to give a presentation to describe what had happened in the BIOMASS program and where it was going. And this was good – it was very well received and I thought I did a fairly good job on it. I don't think I'd have been asked if they didn't think I'd do a good job. Hempel would have told me exactly where I could stick my program. The funny thing was that (Sir George Deacon came out with me to that meeting as well) the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission had . . . I don't know whether they'd initiated it for Sir George Deacon's benefit but they had a prize for the person who's irritated Administration most in the preceding year. This was a stuffed albatross with its wings out, and they gave this prize to Deacon, so we ended up at the check-in at Halifax airport to come home – with George with this with blasted great albatross. It was ??? [*indistinct*] brilliant. I don't know what became of it. I don't even know whether he actually got it through or they confiscated it and took it back or something, but . . . These things happen – its [*inaudible word or two*].

[Part 2 1:13:23] We carried on with O.B.P. cruises and the next one that we had was our Winter Cruise which was 1983, just over a year after the conflict and unfortunately it was a bit of a damp squib in some respects because we couldn't find any krill around South Georgia – it was completely empty. Tried to explain it but with the limited information we'd got, and not knowing enough about the thing – we couldn't get very far with it but purely to observe that this had taken place. While I was away there that was when the first CAMLR meeting took place, so I missed the first couple I think, and then came out on the UK Delegations. That was organised by John Heap as the UK Commissioner. John knew a huge amount about . . . John knew the Treaty system, because he was around and part of the negotiating system for it. He knew CAMLR because he'd been part of the negotiating system for it, so then to . . . there were various people there – good people who knew the treaty and CAMLR – exactly what it was about. So it was good grounding to be able to get into that. I came along, along with John Beddington who was the Scientific Committee representative. John Heap had asked John Beddington to do that work for him because . . . I'm not sure whose advice it was that he should do that or whether John Beddington had suggested he was the right bloke to do it, but anyway – doesn't matter, John is a good person to front up for something like that. After a couple of years the then chairman of the scientific committee had to step down, which at that time was Dietrich Saharga, who I knew from F.A.O. times, from the German cruise, and he knew me well and he suggested that I might like to be the next Chairman of Scientific Committee. So I mentioned this to John Heap and I remember John's face – he looked at me and said [*Inigo pulls a face*] 'Does he really mean that?'. And I said 'Well, you know – I dunno!'. And I said 'Well, I think he's serious. You'd better get onto him and ask.' And then John thought [*indistinct phrase – possibly 'It's up to you'*]. Maybe it is a good idea.' And I said '. . . but you realise that you'll lose somebody on the delegation, because if I'm Chairman I can't participate in the debate as a U.K. representative, from the floor'. In fact that was a good opportunity, because what that meant was that we got John Croxall coming in to the CAMLR meetings, so I was putting the Antarctic knowledge on krill and fin fish and so on, feeding that through Beddington to the thing, John Croxall had got the bird and seal stuff through, so U.K. . . . (also Beddington knew quite a lot about seals and he'd been I.W.C. as well – Whaling Commission) so between us, just the three scientists here, we had an extremely strong team. That worked well. By that time I was Chairman of Scientific Committee. I'd decided that the Scientific Committee needed to be . . . I thought it was moving too slowly, so I looked at the Scientific Committee agenda and tried to get as much stuff done in outside groups so that we'd got conclusions coming forward, and tried to chivvy up the debate in Scientific Committee so as whereas in Saharga's era it had been taking nearly two weeks to get through the agenda because there was all this to-ing and fro-ing, in the first year I got through, by the Monday to Thursday – we were adopting report on Friday. That moved it forward quickly. We also got a couple of working groups established. There was the Fish Stock Assessment working group – that had been already under Saharga's period, but the Ecosystem Monitoring Program was established, so that we were beginning to build up a

structure for managing the information – setting up the program properly. Having done the first two-year term of office as Chairman I was invited to do a second term, so I did the second one. The first two terms . . . Scientific Committee and Commission – they are independent. Scientific Committee reports to Commission. Commission makes the conservation measures, so they're doing the legal bit. My first two years the chairman of the Commission was [*pause*] a Belgian. He was one of those – a Belgian diplomat, and he was a diplomat who expected things to be done for him, you know – follow him around and subserve . . . He wouldn't speak directly to me, because [*wordless exclamations*] . . . ‘Stupid scientist! You don't know what you're talking about!’ So I got no co-operation there and that was very difficult getting the information flow through to the . . . It wasn't going to go through the chairman so it had to go through the Commission sub-groups and things. Hopeless, but managed to get things going. But my second two years the Chairman of the Commission was a fellow named Marcos Cortez, from Brazil, and he was a diplomat but he was smooth! He'd listen to a problem and then he would sort of slide the way through it. His knowledge of English was absolutely brilliant and impeccable. Chairman of Scientific Committee, Chairman of Commission – we used to sit on this podium together and some of the things that were said between us, I mean it's just nobody's business what was going on up there! But we had a good working relationship – we working together, and also with the simultaneous translation – interpretation – going on behind us, so I was . . . they respected me. It's quite a complement actually because after I'd retired as chairman of Scientific Committee the interpreters were using my recorded voice as an example of what the debate's about and what they can expect to . . . new interpreters coming into the thing, as a good example. So that was very encouraging – I didn't realise I spoke quite as clearly as that. I probably don't now, and I wasn't speaking at this speed, because I wanted to make sure the simultaneous translation got through, but that was very encouraging. Anyway, after that they asked me to go over and chair the Fish Stock Assessment working group and I was also doing other things – committee work. I was always a chairman on a working group for the remainder of my period there.

[Part 2 1:21:50] One of the problems that we had was that the Krill and the Ecosystem Monitoring Program working groups, they were going their separate ways. They were separate, whereas in fact if CAMLR was to function properly they needed to integrate and go together. It was just a clash of personalities between the respective convenors. So Scientific Committee decided . . . we need a new working group which brings those together, because it's not happening yet. And I was asked if I'd convene that – Working Group on Ecosystem Monitoring and Management. I said ‘Yeah all right, I'll give it a go’, so I looked at what had been going on in the Ecosystem Monitoring one and the Krill one and how we were going to bring it . . . the krill one had done pretty well – done very well in fact – by getting a conservation measure on total allowable catch for krill, and that was quite something to do in the light of the aims of the convention, and the ecosystem monitoring program had set up sampling programs so that you could start monitoring the dependent species, prior to integrating it together – what we need to bring all this lot together. And I thought ‘Well, these two working groups have been separate. They think separately – they think differently. I've got to get some way of getting them to forget that "I'm on that side, you're on that side", and get in the middle.’ I went across to the Whaling Commission meeting in Dublin that year and I was still racking the brains how I would get this done and I came up with the idea that rather than . . . You can have direct estimates of standing stock of krill using echo sounders – you can do the acoustic estimate. That's fine. That's what we were using, and we had used. What I was thinking of was we ought to have a system where you estimate standing stock of krill from the consumption by dependent species. Now, the dependent species people were saying if you take too much krill our albatrosses are going to die, penguins are going to die, seals are going to die. So, OK – now's your chance! You've got to come and demonstrate that you've got all these penguin colonies, all these albatross colonies, and they take all this

amount of krill out – and so we use it and we try and match the two up. I say it myself – it worked beautifully, because the . . . Greenpeace didn't like it because it meant that the amount of krill that the predators . . . in order to demonstrate this they had to come and find out where all the penguin colonies and all the things were, so in order to get a decent number they needed to do a lot more field work. That's brilliant! That's what I wanted. So if that was the case then the consumption by penguins and seals would be low and you'd assume that most of it was taken by whales then. The other side of it – that the Japanese didn't like it because they hadn't got a clue what the outcome would be. So I'd got a paper that I'd written that was criticised both by Greenpeace and the Japanese. It's quite an achievement really! Anyway, it did start them talking to each other, and that's been moving on since then. [*short pause to look at notes –1:25:55*] At the same time as doing all that, in the end of the nineteen-eighties, after the target strength study (getting back to thinking about field work again) the Foreign Office wanted to get independent estimates of the standing stock of the major fish species around South Georgia, 'cos all we'd got was information coming from Russian surveys or Polish surveys, so money was put up from South Georgia Government to pay for time on the research vessel *Professor Siedlecki* [*pronounced Schidletski*] to do a number of hauls on the South Georgia Shelf, for fish stock assessment. I was asked to go because I know the antarctic fish, and MRAG [*pronounced 'emrag'*], Marine Resources Assessment Group – that's John Beddington's group at Imperial College – were asked to come along to provide input from people who actually . . . their bread and butter is assessment work. So that was starting a close liaison between myself and MRAG and the Imperial College group and Beddington's group. At this stage also John Galland had retired from F.A.O. and he was working for MRAG, so it was bringing back an old lags' brigade really. I mean . . . Galland was brilliant.

[Part 2 1:27:02] So Graham and I went onto the *Professor Siedlecki* and we did our hauls around South Georgia and then when we'd finished there was a work period for the Polish scientists to do their work before they headed off north, back to Gdansk. A day after they'd finished our sail we were doing a pelagic trawl (mid-water trawl), looking for *myctophids* and suddenly the main engines went very quiet and then . . . managed to get the net in without a huge amount of trouble but the main engines were really tired. They hadn't been maintained properly for a long time, and so there was a period when the ship was completely dead – no power at all for a day or so, so no light in the accommodation or anything like that and we were out there drifting around. Luckily it was fairly calm, and eventually what they did . . . I think they took two of the pistons out and conn. rods so the main engines were running on I don't know if it was two or three pistons instead of five. They could only make about two-and-a-half, three knots, you see. So they started heading north, so within about a week we were out of the really potentially bad weather, and after that carried on north and then Graham and I were thinking 'When are we going to get back to U.K.?' Graham is a lot more responsible than I've ever been and sent telex messages out to MRAG to ask . . . 'What's the story? We're heading north from here on the *Siedlecki* and we don't know when we're going to get back.' So we ended up . . . Initially the Poles were going to take us all the way up to Gdansk, which would have been about three months. We would probably have run out of food by then I should think. Anyway, so Beddington says 'Ah, you must come back early as possible' and the best place was to go into Rio. So we put into Rio and Graham and I got off and came home from there, and then the rest of the Poles [*Inigo whistles and makes a sweeping gesture*] came home that way.

End of Part 2

[*Stops at 1.30.14*]

Points of general interest:

PART TWO:

- [00:10:30] German scientists comply with trade union rules. (p.3)
[00:11:12] Fifty tons of *notothenia rossii* in one haul. (p.3)
[00:23:16] One way to deal with difficult schoolboys. (p.5)
[00:31:02] Introduction of inflatable boats. (p.6)
[00:49:15] The target strength of krill that's being used is far too high. (p.9)
[00:56:17] BAS funds eroded by NERC. (p.10)
[01:01:02] Crossing the Polar Circle, German style. (p.11)
[01:21:50] Getting two international committees to work together. (p.14)
[01:27:02] An engine breakdown. (p.15)

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INIGO EVERSON (Part 3 of 3)

Edited transcript of a video interview with Inigo Everson at his home, conducted by John Tolson on 23rd January 2014. Transcribed by Simon Taylor on 16 Feb 2020.

[Part 3 0:00:02] Everson:

. . . there, and then the rest of the Poles came home that way. [*These are the last few words of Part 2 repeated.*] We wrote that survey up, then because it was seen that we'd got that experience South Georgia Government wanted annual surveys, so Graham and I were asked to set up a team to do this and because we wanted to have this with international credibility we invited Carl-Herman Koch – a friend from the *Walter Herwig* days, from Germany, Jadcek Schlikovski and Jenet Janacik from the Polish team who we knew and got on with on the *Siedlecki* [*pronounced Schidletski*] and . . . I forget who else was there, but anyway we had an international group. First year we had the *Hill Cove* which was a stern trawler that had been fishing for squid off the Falklands, and we got results and things worked well. This was 1990, and at the end of the survey the agreement was that I would get off *Hill Cove* and wait at King Edward Point for the *Akademik Knivovich* – the Soviet vessel – to come in, and I'd get on their ship and we'd do the same survey and then we could compare one set of results with the other, just because this is an international thing and we want to find out. So I got off *Hill Cove* and was at K.E.P. While I was there there was a Soviet reefer vessel came in. I think it was the *Chernovy Mory*, a Black Sea . . . big ship. Now, before I'd come away I'd been told by John Heap at the Foreign Office that South Georgia Government, and the Falklands and that . . . they were putting in place a mechanism to get fees for trans-shipment of ships that came in to South Georgia, and they had to trans-ship in Cumberland Bay and they had to pay a fee. And that was coming in the First of January, and I said 'All right – fine!' O.K. – file that one away.

[Part 3 0:02:31] Now, I get to K.E.P. in February. This reefer vessel comes in, ready to trans-ship, and I ask the military leader – I said 'Can I come out and go through the paperwork with you?' and he went out did all the sort of immigration emigration [*a word not understood*] rhubarb, quarantine and that and the Master of the vessel looked at him and said 'Is there a trans-shipment charge?', and the military bloke said 'No. I've not been told – do nothing.' And the Soviets were prepared to pay. They'd been told this was happening. They'd been told by Moscow that they would have to pay coming in there. They were all ready for it, and yet there was nothing had been put in place – no statutes had been put in place or anything. So I was bloody furious, so I sent a really strong telex message out to the Foreign Office and to BAS and things to say 'Look, what is going on here? Do you mean what you're saying about this?' Anyway, so that went off. Then a couple of days later there was a Soviet long-liner came in with a casualty on board that needed treatment, so I thought 'Well, if the South Georgia Government and the Falklands aren't going to do anything about these boats I'm going to do something.' So I asked the military ???[*unclear*] 'Can I come out to this long- . . .?' 'Yeah! Come along Inigo! Yeah, it's good fun having you around.' So I went on board. He was going through the paperwork and getting the doctor to look at their casualty and that and I went onto the bridge and I said 'Look, I'm a representative of South Georgia Government. I need to see your log book.' So they produced it. I wrote stuff down from it, and then I said 'I must go down to your Fish Room to see what you've got there.'

[Part 3 0:04:44] And I said to him 'Have you got any fish in?' and he said 'Yes, yeah', and there were five Patagonian Toothfish – they were there. I said 'Oh! Those are interesting. Are those the sort of size you normally catch?' And he said 'Yes, yes. They're all about this. Look, here's the length frequency distribution' and I made a note of all that. He said 'Do you want them?' and I said 'Yeah, we can have them on the base to eat, and I'll take some samples', so I took them away. Now, the CCAMLR [*pronounced 'Camela'*] meeting the previous October . . . the Scientific Committee had recommended a total allowable catch for

toothfish something like about – I dunno . . . about four thousand tonnes. This had been accepted at Scientific Committee level. When it got to the Commission it seemed to be going O.K. but the Soviets came in and said ‘No, we think it should be higher’ and Marcos Cortez looked at me and he said ‘Inigo, I think we have a problem here’ and asked ‘What's the reason for wanting to increase it?’ and the Soviets said ‘It's because . . .’ (this was translation. All this was given in Russian, but coming back through the earphones) . . . ‘that we're catching large fish. These are all senescent fish and they're not contributing to the spawning stock, so therefore it's not affecting the productivity of the population. In fact it's doing [*slight discontinuity in the recording at 00:06:13*] it good.’ And Marcos Cortez looked at me and he said ‘Merde du boeuf!’. Carl-Herman Koch on the German delegation was incandescent with rage about it. ‘Why didn't you raise this at – thing. This is not the case, it's . . . there's no evidence for senility in any fish population like this.’ And I said ‘To my knowledge there's never been any evidence for this at all, and it's something that Scientific Committee will look into next year, but my advice is to go with what the Scientific Committee advice – with the lower T.A.C.’ So they backed off, you see. So, with that information about senescent fish, I'd got these ones from a Soviet long-liner, cut them open, these were coming into spawning condition. They weren't in the least bit senescent. They were about the same size as the fish that they were taking in the fishery, this suggestion about senescent fish was complete garbage. So I wrote that up as a paper and put it in to CCAMLR, to the Scientific Committee Fish Stock Working Group and through, and other people were working at [*sic*] it ready to smack it about it as well. So – got into the folklore about old wives' tales about fish, so we can't have that. We have to have this coming up through Scientific Committee and we will only accept the Scientific Committee view. So that strengthened the Scientific Committee and now I think almost without question the advice of Scientific Committee on total allowable catches and conservation measures like that is just taken – straight through. I had no problem at all, which is good.

[Part 3 0:07:58] Now the other thing about all this – all these decisions are made by consensus. When CCAMLR was agreed there were a lot of people, particularly the green organisations, [*a slight interruption in the recording*], conservation groups who said trying to get decisions by consensus just will not work – you'll not get anywhere. When you look at the way that CCAMLR has gone: we got conservation measures on closure of fishing for *notothenia rossii*, mesh size regulation, krill total allowable catch, restrictions on catching ice fish and tooth fish, all done within a decade. No other regional fisheries management organisation anywhere else in the world has managed to do that, and we did that by consensus. And the way to work that is what I was doing through the committee work, which where you have a problem (and this was part of the agreement in the convention if you look at it) you say ‘O.K., minority views: you include them in the report. If you've got a problem with that minority view let's come back and debate that next year.’ That's going to narrow the field, and you keep going and you get the thing so that by the time the criticisms have come you've just been crossing them off as you go down and you end up with consensus at the end. Now that way consensus is working. It doesn't work all the time. There are ways it doesn't work, but that way within CCAMLR we had a good system and the people involved in it were implementing it well. There's some areas where it's falling apart a little bit now, so there needs to be some return to considering the decision-making process, but that's for the future and perhaps having retired, and I'm thinking of coming back into antarctic stuff, I might get back into that. But the speed with which conservation measures have gone through is much better than anywhere else anywhere in the world, and covering a broader spectrum. So that was good.

[Part 3 0:10:22] So, get back to that part: I'd got my sample of toothfish, to hit on the head the senescent fish story. I was waiting for *Akademik Knivovich*. *Knivovich* arrived, I'd transferred all my kit to the ship and they were prepared to sail within about four or five

hours and it was at that point that they got a somewhat garbled telex message from the military to say that Brenda, my wife, had been in hospital and had surgery – a lumpectomy, and it was found to be malignant. So I knew I'd got a problem then, so I thought 'Well, I've got to phone home'. They didn't have a telephone link at the garrison. Fortunately one of the navy patrol ships, I think it was *Dumbarton Castle* was in. I said 'Look, can I go over there? I must make a phone call.' So I got a lift over and went on board and said 'Can I make a phone call?' and the Communications Officer says 'Who paying?' and I said 'I don't care. BAS!'. So I phoned up – I mean Brenda, she'd been in tears but she was relieved to hear my voice, and was saying she'd got friends around her and things were O.K., so I didn't need to come back immediately, and I thought 'No. I can't do this. This is not on. This is not on at all.' So I said 'No, I'm coming home, straight away, as soon as I can. I don't know how long it'll take, I don't know how I'm going to get there, but I'm coming.' So I went back to *Knivovich*. The message had got through to them that I'd got a problem and was likely going to have to get off, and do you know? – in the half hour that I'd been on *Dumbarton Castle* making this phone call . . . got back on board and they'd got the messroom table spread out – enormous spread of tapas things and glasses of wine . . . 'Inigo, we're extremely sorry that you've got to do this.' It's brilliant. You know, you get an empathy with sea-going scientists like that. They were genuinely sorry to see me go. One of the people on that was Tatyana Lyubimova. She was the Scientific Committee representative, and I saw her in Leningrad a year or two later at a CCAMLR meeting (it can't be that long after – a year or so later) and she said she felt for my wife, 'I'm very sorry' and she said 'I pray for her' and I thought 'This is Communism!' and she put her hand down her voluminous thing and pulled out this little crucifix that she'd got. And I thought 'God! This woman has got a soul! She's not the intransigent beast that the Soviets are portrayed to be.' And she and I had a lot of respect for each other . . . well, even before that because at Scientific Committee meetings the United Kingdom sat next to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics – U.S.S.R. you see – and I always knew when the boot was going to come in against the U.K. because she'd pass a little sweet along. These things just happened in there. It was good. I got a good relationship with just about all of the . . . I think with all of the member states round there, [Part 3 0:14:39] around the CCAMLR table – even the Argentinians. I don't know whether I ought to mention his name, but one of them refers to Commissioners as 'Turkeys', and 'voting for Christmas': there's the Commissioners sit in the front rank and then there's the advisors to them behind. This particular one, the U.K. was sitting opposite Argentina on the other side of the table and [unclear speech, but Inigo gives a clear demonstration of a man imitating a turkey squawking and flapping its wings]. In the coffee break he said 'My turkey made a bigger mess of it than your one!' Anyway, so I went home. [interruption to the recording, and a new viewpoint, colour balance and sound volume, 0:15:27.]

[Part 3 0:15:27] I went home. *Dumbarton Castle* took me to Stanley and I flew home from there. That sorted that problem out. Obviously I was a bit concerned that I hadn't heard about this earlier and I came in for quite a lot of criticism for not letting people know where I was, but I'd passed all the information that I had available about where I was and that MRAG were going to . . . so they only had to phone up John Beddington's office and they could've sorted things out, but even allowing for that communications could have come through Bird Island in the same way that they did on the Stromness krill project. So there was a problem with communication which was unfortunate, and when I discussed it when I got home I wasn't looking to criticise people, I was looking to provide something constructive, because you might get other situations like this coming up and you want to be able to deal with it as effectively as possible, because it is off the mainstream of BAS work. Anyway, when I got back Brenda was under treatment and that was all going ahead, so I carried on with my work, [0:16:56 - recording starts to break up] and because by the following year things were going fairly well and I went to another fish survey on the *Falkland Protector*.

[*recording becomes broken, but roughly what was said was . . .*] There were problems, but we haven't got time to go into all the detail on those sorts of things. We did complete the survey fairly well. [*recording recovers*]

[Part 3 0:17:27] Then on the next one, in 1992, we did the fish survey but when we got down into the vicinity of Clark Rocks, off the eastern end, we found a long-liner fishing there. Now there wasn't anything to prevent fishing, because there was a total allowable catch and that was anybody who wanted to fish could come in and take it, but they had to report what and come back and that. I think as far as I could see everything was going O.K., but there were a few things about the operation there that weren't totally in line with the CCAMLR regulations, but this was the first CCAMLR inspection of a fishing boat – the *Mar del Sur 3* – so I did that along with Graham, and we reported it all back. The *Mar del Sur 3* had a Master on board – they had to have an ocean-going master as well as the fishing master, because the fishing master had only got coastal qualification, so the master of the ship hadn't really got a clue what was going on on the ship – he just was expected to drive it from A to B and around, [*0:19:05 broken recording again – the following transcription includes some guess-work . . .*] and we swapped addresses and I said 'Well, if ever you're in U.K. do give us a call' and he said 'Yeah, if ever you're in Chile – call me'. So I thought yeah, well that's all right, and he lived in Viña del Mar. In 1992 there were two CCAMLR Scientific Committee working groups . . . one in Punta Arenas, the krill working group – and Ecosystem Monitoring Program one in Viña del Mar. They'd organised them in two places, so . . . I went from the krill one up to Viña for the ecosystem one and I asked my Chileno colleagues 'Do you know this address? Could you get in touch with this fellow, because I'd like to meet him. If you explain who I am he might know . . .' [Part 3 0:20:30] So we went round there one evening, John Croxall and I with a couple of our Chileno colleagues from the working group – had a brilliant time! He'd got this apartment, and the upstairs part was all set out like a captain's cabin with portholes and a chronometer and a barometer and all the other bits and pieces. 'I have to have this place to get away from my wife sometimes!' It was really nice seeing him again, actually. So that was good. It was good fun. [*0:21:20 recording recovers*]

[Part 3 0:21:20] Anyway, got home from that survey and one of the first things that Brenda said to me was that she'd got secondaries, so I knew that this was the slippery slope time. She'd had a problem, and it was getting worse. I'd seen John Galland go through prostate cancer about three or four years previously, and he'd died – a great loss to me because he and I . . . we used to laugh and joke . . . but a really good scientist. So I knew that I'd got problems here, so couldn't do a survey in 1993, but 1992 the executive secretary for CCAMLR had retired and they were looking to recruit a new executive secretary, and my name had been suggested by a lot of people as being somebody who worked well with just about every nation around the table, and knew the science and could do a good job. But Brenda was deteriorating, and I decided I couldn't go the 1992 CCAMLR meeting when the election was taking place. There was balloting, and I was clearly the leader . . . got ten out of twenty-one votes on the first round of voting, but because I didn't go to the meeting there was no way I could . . . Mike Richardson said 'Come out just for a couple of days'. I said 'No, no, I can't. It's a sort of roller-coaster that Brenda's on. I can't leave her.' So I think Mike, and John Beddington, tried extremely hard to get me elected as Executive Secretary but in the end it went to a Spanish fellow, who wasn't up to the job really – he was out of his depth. But in retrospect it's not a bad idea I think because had I become Executive Secretary that would have taken me out of front-line science. [Part 3 0:24:14] Having an executive secretary who is not really competent but is trusted by the Latino group – the Spanish-speaking . . . because you've got Argentina, Chile, Spain, Portugal, France – you know, all that lot . . . then it's not a bad idea, and if he's not particularly good at it he will look to the experienced people for advice, so all through his tenure of office he was looking to people like the U.K. for a lot of guidance on things, so in fact U.K. had quite a lot of influence, but

Mike Richardson can fill you in the details on that side of it. So I didn't go to that, and we didn't have a survey in 1993 because Brenda was still on the decline. Sadly she died a few months later.

[Part 3 0:25:26] But we had a survey in 1994 using the *Cordella*, which was a ship that Marr Vessel Management had brought down to the Falklands. It was a very nice ship, a good sea boat, and on this 1994 one the toothfish fishery was under much tighter control, and the fishery was restricted to one ship in each of five months so it's a different ship, in five months, so there are five ships but they're sequentially going through. [*c.00:26:15 recording badly broken up again, more guesses in the transcription*] Before we sailed from Stanley I remember talking to the Governor – David Tatham – and I said ‘David, what do I do if I see another illegal fishing boat?’ and he said ‘Pursue and harrass! Pursue and harrass, Inigo!’ Great! I don't need a second bidding to do that. So we set off on the survey, and one of our colleagues Crag Jones was the . . . brilliant . . . a good fisheries observer as well . . . was on the *Insol 66* – the Korean ship that was licensed to fish there at the time, and we got an arrangement that we'd be in extremely brief radio contact, just a few sentences a day, and we heard through that that Crag had seen a fishing boat to the south of South Georgia, almost due south of the Annenkov Islands. So overnight I took *Cordella* down. We were looking along the shelf off-break, because we knew that any long-liner would be operating within about . . . depth . . . shelf drops down very steeply there. Going along there it was brilliant because it was a misty morning and you couldn't see anything, a few icebergs around, and . . . radar . . . 'Ah! Let's have a look at that particular blip! Just as we got within about a mile – half a mile? – of it the mist lifted and there was the long-liner *Antonio Lorenzo* and they saw the *Cordella* with FISHERY PATROL on its side in huge letters, as they pr-rr-rr tried to get away. Well we were faster than they were and we overhauled them after about an hour and told them that we wanted to inspect. So Graham and I did the inspection. [*recording recovers, c. 00:31:05*] We transferred and we insisted on going . . . I've got a video of it that you can look at and it's got all the detail of it. I'm convinced that they were fishing but we couldn't find evidence of it. They seemed to have all the marker buoys present, but there was a lot of evidence to indicate that they had been fishing there, but it was difficult to prove so we said ‘Right, you must come round with us to K.E.P.’ So this was south of Annenkov, so I slept on the floor of the Bridge up there as we came all the way round, got into K.E.P. and there was a military commander there (it was a Gurkha platoon at this stage) and I said to the Captain ‘You know there's Gurkhas at South Georgia, don't you? I don't want . . .’ ‘Oo-er!’ (frightened). This was on a Friday afternoon. Never do anything on a Friday afternoon if you want the Foreign Office or anybody else or Government to do anything about it. Telexes going out back and forth – Look, we've got this bloke, we're sure he was fishing, what do we do? Can we arrest him? What charges? . . . and all this sort of thing. And we had to wait 'til the Monday. So I thought ‘Well I'm meant to be doing a fish survey here’ so I said to the Garrison Commander, Major Tek – a Gurkha, I said ‘Look, because they haven't lodged a bail bond, could we put a military guard on the ship to stop them sailing off, and we can get on with our fish survey?’ And Tek, he looked at me and he said [*Inigo puts on a funny voice*] ‘Ah! Inigo! A slight problem!’ And I said ‘What's that?’ And he said [*funny voice again*] ‘Well, Gurkha soldier speak not much English. Gurkha soldier speak no-o-o Spanish. Spanish sailor make wrong move, big bang! Feathers everywhere! Sorree!’ So I said ‘O.K., I got your message.’ So we had to wait until a bail bond had been lodged in Stanley, and then we could release this ship to get out the area, and they were bailed to appear in court a month later when we'd finished the survey. So we got back on with the survey. When we'd done enough of it we went back to Stanley for this court case, so we're briefed by the Prosecution side and Graham and I had to give evidence and prepared statements and all, and I couldn't believe the lies that were told by the fishermen about . . . they liked rotten fish, and they weren't fishing, and all this sort of thing. Unbelievable! Anyway they were convi . . . they weren't convicted of illegal fishing, because we hadn't provided enough evidence for that –

they were convicted of having unstowed gear, and the fine was about seventy thousand pound, which I thought was absolutely derog . . . it's peanuts! – it's just a few days fishing that they've lost. That's crazy! Anyway, so I made my views felt to the Magistrate, and that sort of thing.

[Part 2 0:35:03] Then because we'd had to break I'd asked for extra time to finish the survey, so we went back to South Georgia and just as we arrived back off Shag Rocks there was another fishing boat I saw on the horizon, so I told the Captain – I said 'Just ease back. Can you keep that vessel just on the edge of your radar range? Because I want to know where he's going and what he's doing, if he's going along and setting a line, or he's zig-zagging about for finding ground – what he's doing.' So we stood off him and waited overnight. While we were waiting there this blasted cruise ship, the *Polar* something or other – the *Polar Queen* or something, anyway they saw us so they called us up on the V.H.F. . . . 'Cordella, Cordella, this is *Polar Queen*, *Polar Queen* . . .', so I said 'Don't anyone answer that bloody phone!' I said 'We're not here!'. So they called us up a couple of times then they gave up and they carried on out, and I don't know whether that told this ship that we were watching them. Then at about four in the morning they started going off fairly fast, and Nick Wainman, the Captain, said 'Look, Inigo, do you want to break cover and go after them?' and I said 'Yes, we go after them'. We were only doing about a couple of knots faster than he was, so at ten miles you've got quite a long time before we overhauled him, and by that time they'd have got everything out shipshape, and that. That's on another video. The thing about that was that they had been fishing illegally the previous November, but since they'd changed crew we couldn't nail them on that, so [*inaudible phrase*], just watch your step. Go! Get off!' So we let them go and we carried on fishing, and then we came a few nights later, off the entrance to Cumberland Bay we saw some lights of a boat and I said to Nick 'Let's have a look – see what's happening there.' And there was a long-liner hauling his lines. This was a Soviet one, the *Murgarod*. So I said to Nick 'Can we board him?' and I told him that we were going to do an inspection, and who we were. He insisted that we went round the weather side and I remember Graham sitting in the bottom of the inflatable [Part 3 0:38:12 - *video clip of soviet fishing boat in heavy weather at night*] and he said 'Do you really want to do this?' and I said 'No, but I don't want to go back onto *Cordella*! It'll be just as bad getting on board there as well.' 'Cos at least on the foredeck on the *Murgarod* the waves were coming up and the inflatable was coming up to deck level so providing you'd got everything with you you threw everything onto the deck and jumped after it. We both got over, and sent the crew back. So Graham and I went on board. [0:38:48 - *video clip stops, Inigo re-appears on screen*] There's a video of that. They were fishing illegally. They'd said 'We'll stop hauling now'. I said 'No. No. You'll haul everything. I want to know where your other lines are as well, and you'll haul those.' So I made them haul all their lines. They were catching albatrosses as well, which was bad news. [0:39:04 to 0:39:35 – *a short video clip shows an albatross being thrown overboard, followed by another shot of Inigo himself [?] examining a drowned and injured albatross which is still hooked.*] So I did the CCAMLR inspection, Graham did the South Georgia Government inspection, and this one was arrested as well, and brought into King Old Point [*sic*] but by that time we'd run out of time to do any more fishing, so we said we'd accompany the ship back to Stanley for the court case. [Part 3 0:39:35 – *video clip stops, Inigo re-appears on screen*] Crag Jones went onto *Murgarod* and we followed on behind in *Cordella*. We set out and the weather deteriorated – it was blowing about Force 9 or 10 by the time we'd got around off the Bay of Isles. Then our main engine broke down. Crag came up on the radio and said 'What are you doing? I can't see you. Are you all right?' . . . 'Oh yes!' – we weren't going to admit that we'd broken down, otherwise *Murgarod* would have gone anywhere. Fortunately we got things going and we got them back to Stanley. They were convicted of illegal fishing, and other things – fishing out of . . . the other bits and pieces, but there was nothing on the Statute for killing albatrosses. Although they'd killed seabirds and we didn't want it to happen you couldn't

convict them for it. So that was bad news. So in the end they got fined about seventy thousand quid again for illegal fishing. It was a lower fine because they're poorer fishermen – they're Soviets, and this sort of . . . [*Inigo grunts in despair*] But that's the way it went, and I had another rant after that, and then went home. And then after that we've had a number of fish surveys, going back over the years. After that we tried another one with *Cordella* in 1996. [0:41:25 – *recording fades to a new viewpoint, with short loss of sound*] That information went to CCAMLR and it highlighted the importance of the inspections, and also I think it was an important branch in getting the agreement on conservation of albatrosses and petrels set up, which was another important conservation arrangement which protected seabirds at sea, not just in the Southern Ocean but worldwide. So it was good in that respect, and that is another thing that developed out of CCAMLR activities. We tried to have another survey in 1996 but *Cordella* hadn't been properly maintained and we had problems with it and so came home without doing any work. The following year we went with . . . it was very useful because the *Argos Galicia* was chartered. Now I was asked to go and check this ship over. I went out to Spain to look at it in . . . I forget the name of . . . on the Atlantic coast . . . Corunna – was it?

[Part 3 0:42:51] Tolson:
It could be. Yes.

Everson:

I met the Master there and we had a very useful chat and I looked over his ship and explained it and met some of the crew. That worked well, and I realised when I worked with him on the *Argos Galicia* cruise in 1997 that I'd probably got the best fisherman I'd ever sailed with. His attention to detail in setting up the net and looking at the ground and working around was incredible. That was an extremely successful cruise, not only for the fishing but we also did other work as well, getting biological samples, the deep camera (the *Aldos*) [?] was used on it – [*an inaudible word*] a huge amount there, and this is with a crew who are professional fishermen. They hadn't done science before, and they were entering into the spirit of it right the way through, and we had a great time there. They were sorry to see us get off, and they were waving – cheering – as we all went. So we had a couple of subsequent cruises with them, 2000 I think, but then the Falklands got the *Dorada* (a ship that had been fishing illegally in New Zealand and impounded and it was bought from there and refitted and run out of the Falklands) and that's been doing fish surveys since that. [Part 3 0:44:28] Those are the sorts of things that we try to do it. We try to combine the basic fish survey, which is looking at standing stock of mackerel icefish, toothfish and also the potential recruitment indices for the different species, and also we established a tagging program for toothfish, so we're doing mark-recapture work to look at distribution and growth of the fish, and all this is coming through. That's working well with the South Georgia Group under the leadership of Mark Belshay, at BAS. Now, *Argos Galicia* was introduced to us through Dougal Goodman who at that time was Deputy Director of BAS, and he looked at South Georgia . . . One of the problems with South Georgia is that: there's a lot of people out there who say 'You'll never make a . . . there's not enough revenue . . . it can't pay for itself . . . it needs a subsidy from somewhere – from the Falklands or from the U.K.' And Dougal said 'Well, I'll look at this. Is it an asset or a liability?' And he wrote a very good paper on this, looking at the options, whether it's fishing, tourism, postage stamps or whatever – a very good and thorough analysis, and demonstrated that in the right way this was an asset, so that it could work. Now Dougal is one of these people who is exceptionally clever, exceptionally bright, got an encyclopaedic memory but does not suffer fools in the least, so that didn't make him too popular in a lot of areas. But he should have been popular because he was . . .

his background in B.P., the sort of industrial side was the sort of thing that was needed in BAS at that time – but never mind. But he introduced *Argos*, with Ian Thompson – the director of Argos Evergreen, and he and I became very good friends with being able to interact and suggest things about fishing practice to minimise seabird capture and this sort of thing, areas to try and all this was going very well. Anyway, Dougal unfortunately was taken off as deputy director of BAS, which I thought was a bad move, but never mind. Even though he was sidelined he maintained a strong interest in industrial things that might be of interest. He was always encouraging me saying ‘Inigo, publish papers on toothfish. That's what we want.’ I said ‘Look, I haven't got enough data to do really good papers on that. I'm doing some icefish ones.’ ‘Yeah, but icefish are all right, but toothfish . . . come on, Inigo!’ So he was always chivvying me, which was good, and I did do some on toothfish, but I . . . one could do more now. Things have moved on a lot. But it was good having Dougal there and he was able to stay working in BAS while he had his tsunami project operational. That was very good indeed.

[Part 3 0:48:39] So at the end of this thing about 'South Georgia, Asset or Liability?' there were moves to transfer the South Georgia station back from military to civilian occupation. I don't know at what point this started. I wasn't involved in it at the outset. It was only when the thing had gained a significant momentum that I was even asked about it, because I was asked at short notice by Frank Curry to ‘Give us a marine biology fisheries program for South Georgia, that we could implement if we had a research station there’, and I said ‘How much money have you got?’ and Frank said ‘No, you just write the program. It's dead easy – you write the program out and we'll take it forward.’ And I said ‘Look, I'm not doing it unless I know how much money I've got. Can't you tell me what the budget is?’ And Frank told me that he didn't trust scientists with money, because they can't manage it. And I said ‘Just a minute!’ and he said ‘No, no! They're hopeless at it!’ I said ‘Frank, I have a house in Suffolk, one in Norfolk and one in Cambridge. I've got no mortgage on any of 'em. What's that tell you about financial management on my part? And I'm just as strict as far as financial management with other people's resources. Will you trust me now?’ Err – nothing going. Anyway things were moving forward with I think John Crebbes [?- 0:50:24] interacting with the BAS Director's Committee, or . . . I don't know what was going on out there. David Walton and John Dudeney were involved in it. But eventually there was formed a committee to oversee a transfer back to King Edward Point, and I was invited in on this and I was asked to provide the program, and I said ‘Look, I need to know . . . tell me, what have I got in the way of resources here?’ ‘Oh no! You . . .’. In the end I got so infuriated with Walton, Dudeney and Curry not coming forward and coming open about things that I just spat me dummy, and that was it. I was off . . . just don't want to know. And I think one of the problems was that they knew I worked very closely with John Beddington, and they were paranoid about John Beddington influencing things, and wanting to take it over by using me as a . . . no way – John and I worked together and he knew my position in BAS and anyway, so I walked away from the re-occupation of South Georgia thing. [Part 3 0:51:50] Then they got onto building it and I became slightly involved in one or two things, but not as closely as I think I should have been – or I might have been – I think having told them where they could stick the program if I was asked I could provide advice but not otherwise. I got this e-mail from John Dud . . . it was a ‘BAS All’ e-mail about suggested names for the new buildings at King Edward Point. I

looked at this and deleted it and then got on with the rest of me work and didn't think about it. A couple of weeks later I was in the Common Room talking to [*inaudible*] and Dudeney came up to me and said 'Have you got any ideas about a name for the South Georgia base?' I said 'No, I'm not worried about that, I want to get . . . more important things to do.' And he said 'Well, can you suggest something?' And I said 'Well, Neil Mackintosh' because Doctor Mac did very good work on krill and oceanography in the *Discovery* investigation, and I thought that would be fitting. Anyway, John Dudeney went off to the library because he hadn't got a clue who Neil Mackintosh was – asked Christine all about it and she told him. Word got back to me 'What was John Dudeney interested in Neil Mackintosh for?' Ah, something's happening. That's good. Still, forget about that – a week or two later got this e-mail from John Dudeney saying there's been a strong groundswell of opinion that the facility at South Georgia should be named after you – Everson House. I wrote back and I said 'Oh, come on . . . joking.' Words to the effect that . . . to name a building after somebody they've got to have a really eminent scientific reputation, and be known internationally, and they've got to be dead – and I said I didn't qualify! The e-mail goes quiet for an hour or so, and then 'Will you . . .?' 'Oh, go on. Put me name forward. I don't care.' And then, going to name it – going to hand over, and I said 'Would it be possible for me to take my wife down, for this handover, because she'd like to go? She wants to go to the Antarctic. She wants to see South Georgia. She wants to know where I work.' And I got this snotty e-mail back saying 'No, you can't, because the Inland Revenue would see that as a perk.' And I said 'Wooh! O.K. If that's the way it is – no wives, game over. Let's think about it.' Thought about it. I said 'O.K. – well, I'll go.' And then when I saw the list of people going across for the handover, C-Biffi, the Commander British Forces Falkands – he was going with his wife . So I got onto John Pye and I said 'Look, if the Commander British Forces Falklands can take his wife across there and that is not seen as an Inland Revenue perk, why can't I take my wife?' 'No, no. That's BAS policy. You're not allowed to do it.' So Diana wasn't allowed to go South for that, and I thought that was disgraceful. And I've never seen any photographs of the handover. It was all military thing – nothing associated with it, no announcements anywhere about it, so I conclude that I'm fairly comprehensively persona non grata with the Director at that stage. [*laughter*] I was really really upset, you know, I was crying – you know [*joking of course*]. But anyway, that doesn't matter. We'll have to find some way of taking Diana down South. Soon after that I retired from BAS.

[Part 3 0:56:16] I went to the last CCAMLR meeting in 2003, so I've maintained an interest in it but it's been at arm's length – I've been letting them get on with it, and more recently I've got a research fellowship at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge, where they tolerate me much in the way that I suppose Nigel Bonner and Dick Laws did over my career. I can do some teaching there and that's good – interacting with students, because you can wind them up. Well, you can wind a few up. A lot of them . . . they're dead from the neck up. But you occasionally get some really good ones, and that's really brilliant. Going out lecturing, demonstrating in the lab. and also going on the Millport field course. And then on top of that MRAG (that's John Beddington's group) got me involved in Lake Victoria research, because they'd got a contract to do the assessment work on the lake and they engaged me to revitalise the acoustic surveys for *Nile Perch* and *Dagaa* on the lake. That's brilliant, because I've got these local scientists . . . I've got the acoustics experience, they know

the fish and the distributions and how they can catch them, so it's trying to bring that lot together, and it took them a year or two to realise that I was looking on them as equals in the scientific thing, because it's a continuum between looking at . . . you get an echo sounder, and you get a black mark on the echo chart – is that the *Nile Perch* or is it *Dagaa*, or is it some flies or something like that, or whatever – what is it? You biologists, you know it. You biologists, you've lived round this lake. You know that, so come on! I'm relying on you for this, you're relying on me for that. And they're learning that. That's good, and I've got a really good team going there. The problem is the contract's finished so I don't get out there as much as I'd like, but I'm trying to get back there again because I can see some ways of using results from Lake Victoria for fisheries analysis which you can apply in the ocean, because the people who work in the sea look down on people who work in fresh water . . . oh yeah they do! They're the big boys in the sea, it's the little boys who've got these little boats in . . . we can show them things in Lake Victoria that they don't know or understand in the sea, and they don't do properly. I'm convinced of that. So that's my next goal in that one. Also I've recently had a project on the South-West Indian Ocean. I mentioned this thing about coiling ropes and things – that was drop-line surveys in the waters of Ard [??], Mauritius, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya – Somali pirate country, which is another thing where things happen. When I went on the sur . . . at Mozambique they said 'You'll have four armed guards on board.' I said 'That's good.' So we sailed. Where's the blinking armed guards? They didn't put any on! So I said 'What do I do? Do I give up on this and go back?' I suppose I could have given up. And the reason they couldn't do that, I was told, was because they're Mozambique soldiers in Mozambique territorial waters operating on a Kenyan ship. [*indecipherable comment, possibly 'A suspect specious one'.*] But that particular ship had a seaworthiness check done before we sailed from Pemba, in Mozambique, and it was only after I got back the agent told me it failed on twenty-three counts – and I'd noticed all sorts of things, watertight doors that didn't shut . . . The trouble was, before sailing I hadn't been checking all that lot out. I'd been trying to set up my echo-sounder and get that all going, in this really filthy wheelhouse. So I got back, but now as well as Anglia Ruskin I've got an honorary chair at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, which strangely enough gets me back to links with Lowestoft Fisheries Lab., which is where I was a long time ago. It's changed hugely. The people like . . . I don't know if I've mentioned Ray Beverton who was Deputy Director there, and as a vacation student he looked at me and talked to me . . . was really keen on my interest because I knew the Anglesea area for the Young Plaice Survey, and he followed my career through – really great bloke, lovely fellow . . . sad that he died prematurely because he and I were looking to do some work around 2000 on estimated mortality rates of fish. John Galland – died of cancer. It's sad. Martin White's died of cancer. Really good blokes that I worked with. We don't want to end on a sad note, and a positive note let's get . . . we're going forward. There's a lot that still can be done and I'm very keen on being part of it.

[Part 3 1:02:21] Tolson:

I would like to just ask you about yourself and management, because you have quite clearly worked with a lot of very very good people who you've had extremely good relationships with, inside and outside of BAS, but you just seem to, with some of the senior management, knock them to one side . . . they'd understand you is . . . What's your figure on that?

Everson:

I've been trying to rationalise that over the years, and I don't know whether it's just bloody-mindedness, mischief, or outright honesty, or whatever. It was interesting, some years ago Nigel Bonner was talking to me – we were talking about a program and I'd said 'I think it ought to be done in this way, you've got to get the building blocks, this, this, this and this.' And I don't know what it was about but there was some blockage in it which would have prevented it, and I said 'That's the one that's got to be hit.' And Nigel said to me 'You know, the trouble with you, Inigo, is that you've evolved and know management by objectives. You haven't been taught it. You've come across it and you've evolved your own version of it, and what you see is something that needs to be done and you look back from that "What do I need in order to put it in place to get it there?", and then when you've done that you decide "O.K., I can do that. We'll go and do it." or "There's something in the way. We'll put that one on the back burner for a time and we'll look at another question." That's, I think, one of the problems associated with it, that if I'm given a job to do I will look at it and I'll want to know as much background information as possible before I start onto it, and that means asking questions for which the people I'm asking the questions may not know the answer. They may not know where to get the answer, but if the knowledge isn't anywhere I want to know that – 'O.K., that's a void there that I have to take account of.' But for them to turn round to me and say 'Inigo, you're asking the wrong questions' or 'That's not helpful' – that doesn't help at all, in the least. So, I'm trying to be constructive. Maybe I'm a bit blunt on occasions, and maybe I use humour in the wrong way. When one meeting I was at there'd been some discussion and it was going all woolly and all over the place and I was chairman and I said 'Clearly we don't want a discussion that's clouded by facts.' And one of the Americans said 'I think you said that the wrong way round, Inigo' and I said 'No I didn't!' And we have some terms like, when you organise a meeting you do take-home messages . . . 'you're going to do that, you're going to do that . . . ' . . . come to the next meeting and you ask 'Where were we at? We're moving on from last meeting. We've got to make progress.' Which we always . . . that's what meetings are about. And we have a term in CCAMLR that's come up: 'So-and-so faithlessly promised to do something'! You put that into a report, and the translators come back and say 'Inigo, what do you mean by . . . ?' But no, I think it's asking questions. I'm not necessarily asking them because I know they're awkward questions. I'm asking them because I don't know the answer. Science makes progress by asking questions. You ask a question and you think 'Well, has anybody got the answer to it? No. O.K., have we got the building blocks to get to an answer? Ah, that's good.' We'll get as far as we can. We may not get the whole way, we'll get half the way and then we'll leave it there and go down this line and maybe come back to it another way. It's asking questions. When scientists stop asking questions you might as well pop up your clogs and go, at least as far as I'm concerned anyway. It's why I keep asking questions.

[Part 3 1:7:28] Tolson:

What do you feel has been your most satisfying period, in your BAS and the CCAMLR life? Where you feel you have achieved the most, personally or scientifically . . . ?

Everson:

I don't know. I've never looked back on it quite like that, because I've had a lot of fun! That's what I got my Polar Medal for. It's the one I got for enjoying myself. The view on what's the most satisfying thing – this changes from year to year. I was very pleased when I got my Ph.D. I was very pleased when I started working on krill. I was very pleased to work at F.A.O. I was very pleased . . . you know . . . CCAMLR, Scientific Committee Chairman. I've had fun in all of them, and I hope that a lot of people have also enjoyed it, because I think . . . you make people happy and dancing along – that does get the thing going and you get the job done. I hate people being miserable.

[Part 3 1:09:00] Never a chance in your life! Inigo, thank you very much!

Everson:

I hope not!

End of Part 3

[Stops at 1.09.12]

Points of general interest:

PART THREE:

[00:02:31] Trans-shipment charges at South Georgia not collected.

[00:04:44] A groundless claim to increase a Total Allowable Catch.

[00:07:58] Decisions taken effectively by consensus.

[00:10:22] Bad news from home.

[00:25:26] Apprehending foreign fishing boats.

[00:38:12] Video clip of boarding a Soviet fishing boat at night off South Georgia.

[00:39:04] Video clip of a dead albatross hooked on a long line.

[00:45:05] South Georgia – an asset or a liability?

[00:54:17] Wife excluded from naming ceremony in South Georgia.

[00:56:16] Everson's career after BAS.

A note on the transcription

This interview developed as more of a monologue with hardly a break and very little need for intervention by the interviewer. The text has been divided into paragraphs roughly by subject matter, but there is a lot of overlapping of subjects from one paragraph to another. Everson often corrected himself, and I have usually written down only the corrected version.

Sometimes the result is very ungrammatical. My attempts to confirm the names of the people and ships mentioned have in many cases been unsuccessful. I apologise for any confusion caused, and to anyone whose name or ship's name I have mis-spelled. In a few places the digital recording was badly 'broken up', and I have indicated where that was the case by notes in square brackets near the parts affected.

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