

# Shrimp Boat “Princess Johana”

Ted Bennett

February 4, 2010

Colorful “Old Key West” is often found on Stock Island, the first key east on US 1.



Go down a narrow walkway at the end of a rugged, pot-holed street named Front and find yourself on the Fishbusterz fishing dock.

The dock also houses the Shrimp Shack restaurant.





The remainder of the Key West shrimp boat fleet ties up in this harbor. The shrimp boat "Princess Johana" lies amid the sea's detritus.

At first glance she is unlovely.





Second glance, too.

Operated by Joiner & Company, she was built in 2000 and is registered out of Port Isabel, Texas. At 84.6 feet in length and almost 157 tons in displacement she is an archetypical Gulf commercial fishing vessel.

Dockside for our Princess is no better.





Hand-cut and -welded chain plates are rusted past worry about failure.



A crewman raises the new TV antenna for long voyages.