



WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

Please Print Clearly:

Witness Name:	Corey Potter	Employer Name:	Alaska Tendering Company
Street Address:	[Redacted]	Employer Address:	[Redacted]
City/State/Zip:	[Redacted]	City/State/Zip:	[Redacted]
Phone No:	[Redacted]	Phone No:	[Redacted]
Position:	Captain	License/Doc. #	[Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

We had left Port Molar at around 11 pm on July 22nd and had a relatively easy trip for the first 17 hours. Seas were around 10' and winds were west at 25 kts. Approximately 5 pm on July 23rd I felt the vessel sitting differently, so I did a walk around to see if I could notice anything out of place or any issues going on. The crew had been, along with myself, resting, doing 2 hours wheel watches, and sleeping. 15 or 20 minutes nothing was, or looked wrong. After 15 or 20 minutes I had Erin, who was up in the wheelhouse with Maybe and me) go roust up Kyle and Megan and have them come to the wheelhouse. There I instructed Maybe to watch the course while the rest of us checked everything out. Kyle and I checked the fish holds (2), they were full and circulating. We then went to the lazarette to check that, however at that time water was completely over the access cover so I instructed Kyle to open quickly, both looked, then closed quickly. We both did not see any visible water line. At that point we continued to sit in the stern and now also developing a list to port side. I then instructed Kyle, along with Megan and Erin, to get the 3" gas trash pump to tie it up under the dewatering box so that waves would not kill the motor and be prepared for a possible pumping. I then checked my AIS in the wheelhouse and noticed the F/V Kona Kai on the screen. I radioed him to stand by, that we were having some issues, unknown if we could contain them. By the time the pump and houses were secure, we were now sitting much lower and lifting more as well. I then instructed the crew to move cranes to starboard side This did not help. I then again radioed the Kona Kai that we could not locate or contain our problem and that we needed immediate assistance. I then made my 1st mayday call. During the time, when I first went on the back deck there were no alarms going off, but by the time I came

I have read the above statement, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true and correct.



8-13-16
DATE

Continuation sheet for witness statement.

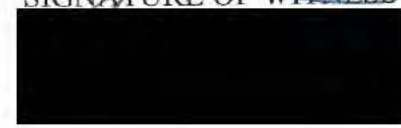
Witness Name: _____

back to the wheelhouse the lazarette light and alarm were going off. I then instructed everyone to the wheelhouse and put on their survival suits on, 2 at a time and help each other. After explaining to everyone my thoughts I then instructed Kyle to grab the EPIRB and keep it with him and to launch the life raft. After we had our plan, I noticed the Star Watcher, who had previously heard and responded to pour distress, and Kona Kai visible out the wheelhouse windows. I then cancelled going out to retrieve the EPIRB and life raft and had everyone then finish completely putting on their suits. Just prior to that I had everyone gathered their wallets and Id's and to drop them in their suits. I then made my last mayday call and final communication with the Kona Kai and Star Watcher. The Star Watcher came back and informed me that he could see the bottom of our starboard side and that the stern and port side were under water and to get crew off boat. We were already in final plans to evacuate vessel. Single file we exited to the back deck where we all entered water on port side and made our way to the rescue vessel Star Watcher. Erin, 1st on board, followed by Kyle, Maybe, Megan and then myself. We were then transported to the abandoned Peter Pan cannery in False Pass where Peter Pan had someone waiting for us to give us shelter and food. We ended up there for 5 days until weather cleared to get back to meet Coast Guard in Kodiak, then back to our base of operations in Vermont.

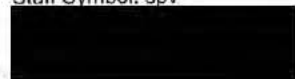
I have read the above statement, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true and correct.



SIGNATURE OF WITNESS



DATE 8-13-16



WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

Please Print Clearly:

Witness Name:	Maybe Potter	Employer Name:	Alaska Tendering Co
Street Address:	[Redacted]	Employer Address:	[Redacted]
City/State/Zip:	[Redacted]	City/State/Zip:	[Redacted]
Phone No:	[Redacted]	Phone No:	[Redacted]
Position:	Crew	License/Doc. #	[Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

On Saturday, July 23rd, while traveling from Port Molar to deliver a load of salmon to King Cove I was sitting at the wheel when my husband, Corey, said that something didn't feel right with the Ambition, it was not riding the same. As Erin was coming up to the wheelhouse Corey instructed her to get Kyle and Megan so they could go to inspect the back deck. Erin and myself stayed on wheelhouse. Shortly after Corey left the wheelhouse and before he went out the bilge alarm to the lazarette started to go off intermittent. After he returned from the back deck I could tell that something was wrong, I started to cry and Corey told me to go to our bedroom, which it was behind the wheelhouse. I heard Corey talking to Kyle and the girls, trying to figure out how to solve the problem. The next thing I remember is Corey contacting the Kona Kai to let them know we had issues so the Kona Kai said they were standing by but I think they started to head our way. Later he contacted the Kona Kai again to let them know there was too much water on the back deck and the pumps could not keep up with it. Corey told us to get our survival suits on and put our IDs and wallets in our suits. Then Corey wade the first mayday call but got no response from Coast Guard so I was so scared and pushed the SOS button on my InReach device. Corey made a second mayday call and again no response. Kona Kai was heading our way as fast as they could and then I heard the Start Watcher on the radio telling us he was closer and was on its way to us. Then I remember Corey telling us (Erin, Kyle, Megan and myself) to go single file downstairs to the back deck because we were going to abandoned ship and get rescued by the Star Watcher. At this time I thought we were going to just jump on board of the Start Watcher, not that I was going to have to jump into the water. Even though we were all scared we remained calm. I saw the Start Watcher on the starboard side so we were all going to that side to get ready for

I have read the above statement, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true and correct.



NAME OF WITNESS

8/9/16
DATE

Prepared by: *Maybe Potter*

Witnessed by:

Continuation sheet for witness statement.

Witness Name: Haybe Potter

them but then the Start Watcher left and went to the port side and it was about 100 yards away.

We then went to port side but no one wanted to be the first one in the water since we realized we had to swim to reach the vessel. Corey came down from the wheelhouse and looked at the girls and yelled "in the water now" and they just glided in since we were in water already. Then Kyle pushed me but my leg got tangled in a line so he saw it and helped me right away.

I was in the water and saw Erin swim as fast as she could and within minutes I saw her being rescued but I could not see my kids or my husband, I kept swimming but getting nowhere since the waves were pushing me back towards the Ambition, I turned on my back but scared me more so I turned on my belly again and remember calling for help since I was not advancing when I saw Kyle swimming about 10-15 meters in front of me so I kept quiet because I didn't want him to turn around and drag him down with me. Is then when I realized that that was it for me, I was not getting ahead and the Start Watcher was going further away from me. I was scared but calm and thought how was it going to feel when I start to drown; but suddenly, not sure how, I was swimming and started to get closer and the Start Watcher started also to come closer to me so Kyle threw the life ring to me, I caught the line and they pulled me in.

Then Kyle throw the line to Megan and then Corey was picked up last.

The Start Watcher gave us blankets to keep us warm and they took us to False Pass where the Peter Pan old Cannery watchman, Wilfred Carlos, instructed by Peter Pan was waiting for us and gave us a warm cabin, the Mayor gathered some clothes from the people of False Pass for us to wear since we had nothing and Bearing Pacific provided us with meals.

I have read the above statement, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true and correct.



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8/9/16




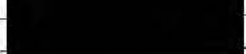

DATE

Prepared by:
Witnessed by: Page ____ of ____



WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

Please Print Clearly:

Witness Name: <u>Kyle Potter</u>	Employer Name: <u>Alaska Tendering Company</u>
Street Address: 	Employer Address: 
City/State/Zip: 	City/State/Zip: 
Phone No: _____	Phone No: 
Position: <u>Engineer</u>	License/Doc. # _____

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

We left Port Molar at 11 pm on July 22nd. Everything was going good, seas were 10 feet. Everyone was doing wheel watches, relaxing, and watching movies. Then sometime after 5pm on the 23rd of July, the Captain had noticed something different with the boat so he told Erin to get me and Megan to check everything out. The Captain and I checked both fish holes and they were still full and not slack tanks. There was a foot of water over the lazarette cover so the Captain and I opened the freeman hatch quickly to look in and I did not see any water in there even though I can only see about half way in and there was no water at the half way point. The Captain then said to rig up pumps just in case and move cranes to starboard side to take out the list on boat. After that we went to the wheelhouse to discuss what to do next and in that short time I looked towards the stern and the water was building over the lazarette hatch cover. If I had opened it, it would have filled the lazarette on the spot, so that wasn't an option. Then the Captain told us to get in survival suits and called in the mayday to the Coast Guard and had notified the F/V Kona Kai that we were in distress. Unable to contain the situation the Captain told me to grab the EPIRB and be ready to deploy the life raft but when the Star Watcher was closer the Captain told me not to because we were going to get picked up by Star Watcher from our boat. The Star Watcher informed the captain that he couldn't get too close to us since he could see the bottom of the starboard side and the port side was under water and we needed to abandon ship. We did and the Star Watcher picked us up.

I have read the above statement, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true and correct.

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WITNESS

8/9/16
DATE

Prepared by:
Witnessed by:



WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

Please Print Clearly:

Witness Name:	Megan Potter	Employer Name:	Alaska Tendering Company
Street Address:	[Redacted]	Employer Address:	[Redacted]
City/State/Zip:	[Redacted]	City/State/Zip:	[Redacted]
Phone No:	[Redacted]	Phone No:	[Redacted]
Position:	Deckhand/Crane operator	License/Doc. #	[Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

The Ambition left Port Molar Friday, July 22nd around 10:30pm. Everything seemed to be going well until Saturday afternoon Corey had all of us get up to check the deck because he noticed something was not right. Corey and Kyle checked the back deck and the lazarette, there was water from the waves covering the freeman hatch. He then had Kyle, Erin and I set up trash pump and tied it off to the sorting table so it would be ready just in case we needed it. We then moved the cranes to starboard side since the port side had more water on stern. Corey went back to the wheelhouse and instructed all of us to get inside. We gathered in the wheelhouse and discussed how to resolve the issue, he instructed us to get our belongings and report back to the wheelhouse. Corey alerted the Kona Kai, who was behind us, of our situation and to watch out for us. After that he instructed us to get into our survival suits. Corey made the first mayday call. The Kona Kai was heading our way and another boat, the Start Watcher, was ahead of us but now coming our way. Corey made the second mayday called but got no response. The Start Watcher caught up to us first, at that point the boat was going to sink. Corey was discussing plans to get the crew out safely. He told us to go on the back deck and to get on the Start Watcher but the Start Watcher could not get close on either side. The water was covering the back deck and the entire port side was under water. We had to get in the water and swim to the Start Watcher. Erin and I were the first ones in, followed by Maybe, who got her leg temporarily caught in the lines, Kyle and then Corey. Erin was the first one to be rescued, then Kyle, Maybe, myself and last one was Corey.

I have read the above statement, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true and correct.

[Redacted Signature]
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

8/9/16
DATE

Prepared by:
Witnessed by:



WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

Please Print Clearly:

Witness Name: Erin Tortolano Employer Name: Alaska Tending Co
Street Address: [Redacted] Employer Address: [Redacted]
City/State/Zip: [Redacted] City/State/Zip: [Redacted]
Phone No: [Redacted] Phone No: [Redacted]
Position: Deckhand / Crane operator License/Doc. # [Redacted]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntarily, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

Coming from Dillingham where we tendered through the month of July, we made a stop in Port Molar to collect a load of fish from the F/V Melanie. We spent the day Friday pumping their fish onto our boat, and then continued on our way towards King Cove. Everyone on board took wheel Watch shifts throughout the night and into the day on Saturday. It was brought to my attention late Saturday afternoon that the Ambition was not sitting right in the water. Corey instructed me to go downstairs to get Kyle and Megan up so they can investigate the issue. I stayed in the wheelhouse with Maybe. When they came back upstairs an explanation was not needed, as the looks on their faces told both Maybe and I that it wasn't a good situation. Corey instructed Kyle, Megan and Myself to go out to back deck to secure a trash pump to some other equipment on deck so it would be ready if needed in a hurry. Although the time it took to safely secure the pump was a few minutes, water was collecting on the deck faster than we could control. We were told to come inside put some dry clothes on and report to the wheelhouse. Once on the wheelhouse we were told to don our survival suits. As we did so, Corey radioed the Kona Kai who were within miles of us. He informed them of our situation; for precautionary measures they started to make their way towards us as we kept them on the radio. As minutes went by the Ambition was listing strongly to Port side and water continue to gather on the deck. Corey knew our lives were in danger and made the first Mayday call. We continued to stay in contact with the Kona Kai who kept motoring towards us. Hearing no response from the Coast Guard after our mayday call Maybe made the SOS call on the InReach device. Corey made another mayday call 30 minutes later, still didn't hear a response so the Kona Kai called the Coast Guard and relayed our information to them. At this time

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[Redacted Signature]
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8/11/16
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Prepared by:
Witnessed by:

Continuation sheet for witness statement.

Witness Name: _____

the Star Watcher called us, they were within minutes of us and motored toward us as fast as they
could go. When the Start Watcher reached us they called letting us know the boat was taking on w
Water and that we needed to get off the boat ASAP. At this time we all knew it was time to
abandon ship. We all went down to the back deck and hesitantly got in the water. I swam as hard
as I could to the Start Watcher that was on our port side. I made it to the boat first and was pulled
aboard. Kyle was pulled aboard next, followed by Maybe, Megan and Corey.
We were brought to False Pass abandoned Cannery, saying good bye to the Ambition behind us.

I have read the above statement, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true and correct.

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SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

DATE

8/11/16

Prepared by:

Witnessed by:

Page ____ of ____