

The following is the statement of Captain James T. Concagh, Houston Pilot Unit No. 172 concerning his knowledge of the events surrounding the collision of the vessels Conti Peridot and Carla Maersk on 3/9/2015.

On the morning of 3/9/2015 I was called at 0630 to sail the PCC Gaia Leader from City Dock 25 at 0830. At 0900 we left the berth in clear visibility and after turning proceeded outbound. The vessel Carla Maersk, moored at Petro-Tex "A" left her berth in close proximity behind the Gaia Leader after we passed.

I met the first inbound vessel, Tapatio around 1130 in the vicinity of BOSTCO Terminal. It was at this time I believe I began to hear reports of reduced visibility in Galveston Bay on VHF channel 74.

I checked in with VTS at Exxon and also checked my laptop for the location of the next three (3) inbound vessel. The visibility at this time was still good but seemed to be deteriorating. I could still see Barbours Cut from the Fred Hartman bridge.

I met the next vessel, Nave Capella, just below Morgan's Point in poor visibility, about ½ mile.

After meeting Nave Capella, I agreed to a one whistle meeting with Captain Reeser on the Conti Peridot, I believe he was between 2 to 2.5 miles ahead of me at the time.

The easterly wind was setting my vessel slightly to the green side. I was steering 160 degrees and making about 162 degrees. At approximately a mile from the Conti Peridot I had the quartermaster steer 162 degrees to increase the room between the two vessels.

As the two vessels approached I was approximately 150 ft. to the right of the centerline, watching the vessels gyro and rudder angle indicator closely. The time was 1224. Visibility was less than ¼ mile.

After the vessels met I fell in behind Conti Peridot, back to the middle of the channel.

I believe Carla Maersk was approximately 2 miles behind me at this time. I did not hear the VHF radio communication between Conti Peridot and Carla Maersk.

I met the next vessel, Libramont at 1233 in visibility less than ¼ mile.

I departed the Gaia Leader at the Pilot Station at 1525.


James T. Concagh