## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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Investigation of:

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DUKW 34 AND M/V CARIBBEAN SEA

\* Docket No.: DCA-10-MM-025

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Telephonic Interview of: SANDRA COHEN

Conference Room Sector Delaware Bay United States Coast Guard Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sunday
July 11, 2010

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to notice, at 1:17 p.m.

BEFORE: LIAM LARUE

Accident Investigator

#### APPEARANCES:

LIAM LARUE, Accident Investigator National Transportation Safety Board Office of Marine Safety 490 L'EnFant Plaza East, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20594 (202) 314-6000

JOHN LAWRENCE, Vice President Health, Safety, Quality and Environment K-Sea Transportation

BILL GATLEY
Ride the Ducks Philadelphia

RICHARD GLADISH, Chief Warrant Officer United States Coast Guard

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- (1:17 p.m.)
- 3 MR. LARUE: Good afternoon. It is about 1:17. It is
- 4 Sunday, July 11th, 2010. This is Liam LaRue from from NTSB, and
- 5 I'm here at the Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay and we're here
- 6 today to interview Ms. Sandra Cohen. Is that correct?
- 7 MS. COHEN: Yes.
- 8 MR. LARUE: Okay. And also here in the room, I'm going
- 9 to have everybody identify themselves.
- 10 MR. LAWRENCE: John Lawrence from K-Sea Transportation.
- 11 CWO GLADISH: Chief Warrant Officer Rick Gladish, U.S.
- 12 Coast Guard, Sector Delaware Bay, Casualty Investigations
- 13 Division.
- MR. GATLEY: Bill Gatley, Ride the Ducks.
- MR. LARUE: Okay.
- 16 INTERVIEW OF SANDRA COHEN
- 17 BY MR. LARUE:
- 18 Q. Just to begin, could I get your age please?
- 19 A. Sixty-seven.
- Q. Okay. And what I'd like you to do next is just to kind
- 21 of walk us through the events of the day, you know, as best as you
- 22 can recall, and then we'll follow up with any questions we might
- 23 have.
- A. Well, my husband's a physician so we were in
- 25 Philadelphia. My husband had a medical meeting and I had most --

- 1 all of Wednesday. He was getting through about 3:00, and so I
- 2 decided to do the -- because it was so hot I decided to do the
- 3 walking part of my day in the morning and went to Independence
- 4 Hall and all of that, and then decided that -- we were talking at
- 5 dinner the night before. Somebody had suggested perhaps going on
- 6 the DUKW tour because you get a little bit of the land and little
- 7 bit of the water and see more of the city, and I thought 1:30
- 8 would be a good time. That would be about an hour, an hour and 10
- 9 minutes and I could get back at 3:00 and we'd meet up at the
- 10 hotel.
- 11 I'd been on a DUKW tour in Seattle with my family on the
- 12 previous year and it was actually lots of fun, and everything was
- 13 fine. I got the 1:30 tour and everything was going well on the
- 14 tour. Going into the water I felt secure. There was an older
- 15 gentleman leading the tour who seemed to be -- you know, I
- 16 didn't -- I felt that it, it wasn't a college student. And
- 17 anyway, everything was fine, and on our way back -- we had been in
- 18 the water probably five or ten minutes. We were at Penn's
- 19 Landing. We were coming back and somebody smelled something, and
- 20 with that some smoke started to come through. Some of us actually
- 21 thought maybe it was part of, I guess -- you know, they were
- 22 kidding around about so many things that maybe it was just a
- 23 little scare and they'd say don't worry. You know, it was
- 24 nothing. But obviously it was something and the smoke started
- 25 coming in and I heard the tour guide got into the seat. They was

- 1 a younger gentleman who got into the water -- I guess he was a
- 2 trainee -- when we were on the water part and our tour guide was
- 3 facing us, out of the driver's seat.
- And then when this happened, he jumped into the driver's
- 5 seat. The other guy went out. He instructed him to shut the
- 6 engine down because they didn't want a fire. And I guess they
- 7 deployed the anchor. Though nobody felt threatened in any way
- 8 because they said they had radioed or called in to the DUKW
- 9 company, I believe. They were sending out a tow or something.
- 10 There was another tugboat -- or another DUKW boat that passed us
- 11 and asked if we needed help, and I assume that they told them we
- 12 were getting help to come and get us.
- So we sat rather calmly. As a matter of fact, I called
- 14 my husband at that point. It must have been about 20 after
- 15 because I -- or almost 2:30, thinking I was going to be late
- 16 because we were detained with this, and as I was talking with him,
- 17 somebody must have flipped out or seen the barge, you know, a
- 18 distance away, and said there's a barge coming this way.
- 19 And I saw people calling, you know, the front -- again,
- 20 this -- it was the tour guide or the young fellow making calls,
- 21 and then I saw this young fellow up on the front of our boat,
- 22 waving, you know, his arms frantically, and then all of a sudden
- 23 we looked up, looked back and this barge was coming at us and as I
- 24 was saying something about you'll be amused to know what -- I
- 25 realized it was coming right at us and I jumped up and said oh, my

- 1 god. You know, we all started oh, my god, it's really coming, and
- 2 they said grab your life jackets and get out of here. That was
- 3 the thing. And with that, I did feel the bump of the barge,
- 4 the -- you know, hitting us, and then a big wave hit, knocked me
- 5 over. I mean, dropped my phone, dropped my purse, whatever I had
- 6 on my lap, stood up, grabbed the life jacket and barely got it
- 7 around my shoulder, and next thing I know, I was under water, just
- 8 flailing and kicking and felt legs around me, just, you know, sort
- 9 of felt other bodies, parts of people -- I don't know, one or
- 10 more, and just kept, you know, trying not to swallow any water
- 11 and, you know, you start thinking this is the way it's going to
- 12 end.
- And then all of a sudden there's this, like a popping
- 14 sound, I guess, when you come up from the water, and looked up and
- 15 saw the sun in the sky and the -- and I was attached, I guess to
- 16 the young girl, one of the young girls who was the -- part of the
- 17 Hungarian group. She was not sitting next to me. I was sitting
- 18 next to the director from the church group, the person who was
- 19 with the group. So I don't know how we got involved -- entangled
- 20 as we did but she wound up having the other part of my life
- 21 jacket, and so by the time I guess we surfaced, I could see other
- 22 people in the water.
- Some people seemed to be swimming who had their both
- 24 arms free. We only had -- I was holding onto, I guess the life
- 25 thing and she had one arm free and I just told her to paddle. I

- 1 don't know if she even understood. And then we saw like a little
- 2 white buoy and we kind of held onto that a little bit, when we got
- 3 closer. By that time we saw a lot of the police boats were coming
- 4 in and so we just kind of stayed put until it got closer to us and
- 5 they gave us a pole and we, you know, got dragged onto the boat.
- 6 Everything happened so fast, and you know, that's part
- 7 of what I remember, but I was conscious, you know, thinking under
- 8 water that I wasn't sure if we were going to make it up. I guess
- 9 you just get into the (indiscernible) and do what you can. You
- 10 know, you don't -- you're disoriented. You have no idea where you
- 11 are, so seeing that sun and just seeing (indiscernible) -- but
- 12 again, it all happened so fast. That's basically it.
- 13 Q. I can't imagine.
- 14 A. I know. I mean, it's so surreal. I mean, that's the
- 15 only word I can use, part of it harrowing, part of it surreal.
- 16 The other part was we were really feeling okay. I mean, it wasn't
- 17 like the boat was sinking or anything, so I just felt like it
- 18 would be a delay with --
- 19 Q. Right.
- 20 A. So I, I guess all of that happened, so -- and I guess
- 21 part of you thinks, oh, well, somebody's going to get out of the
- 22 way but I knew we couldn't and I, I couldn't imagine he didn't see
- 23 us, and then I thought, well, maybe they were thinking we were
- 24 moving while they were moving, you know. But even if you
- 25 continued to punt (ph.). But I never saw -- because I said when I

- 1 looked back I never saw a person or anything on the barge. We
- 2 just saw the -- like a shovel coming towards you, and then the
- 3 reality, you know, that it wasn't going to turn or stop and I
- 4 doubt that it could have at that point. To see what I saw later,
- 5 how big it was.
- But I -- you know, I have good memories of taking over
- 7 the rail, you know, when we got to the Seaport museum when we got
- 8 closer and we were taken into the Seaport Museum and given T-
- 9 shirts and then one woman who worked there came over -- I was by
- 10 myself. Everybody else was with somebody. And they were, you
- 11 know, taking a headcount.
- 12 And then I realized I didn't have my glasses, my shoes,
- 13 anything with me, so she used my -- she used her phone and called
- 14 my husband immediately because I was on the phone with him when we
- 15 started screaming, you know, and I can imagine what he thought.
- 16 So he went immediately -- I found out later he left where he was.
- 17 He was only about five blocks from our hotel, which was the Omni
- 18 on Chestnut. So he went there thinking they could help him get to
- 19 reach the DUKW company, just to see if they could give any
- 20 information.
- 21 And, at the times he was trying to get through to
- 22 everybody, I had called back. It must have been about maybe 20
- 23 minutes, and so then he came over. And then we were taken into
- 24 the -- the Red Cross was incredible, brought blankets. They
- 25 brought -- eventually brought socks and then eventually sweat

- 1 suits. The police and Coast Guard, I mean, I can't tell you --
- 2 everyone was just incredibly helpful. It was wonderful. And
- 3 being from North Carolina, we were supposed to leave that -- early
- 4 evening and they were able to arrange for us to get out on a later
- 5 flight because I had no identity to get through airport security,
- 6 and they really worked everything through and helped us and got us
- 7 a police -- you know, they took us to the airport and we went
- 8 through security. They got us to the hotel and made arrangements.
- 9 The hotel was wonderful. I mean, we couldn't ask for better help,
- 10 but it was quite, quite an experience. Fortunately a good ending.
- 11 I feel horrible about those two students.
- 12 Q. Yeah, definitely.
- 13 A. A tragedy, but --
- Q. Well, thank you for --
- 15 A. We'll be able to move on, I suspect. I think,
- 16 everything else is in place, so you know.
- 17 Q. Right. Well, thank you for going through that. I'm
- 18 going to kind of walk you back through and ask a couple of
- 19 different questions --
- 20 A. Sure.
- 21 Q. Do you remember exactly where you were seated on the
- 22 boat?
- 23 A. Yeah. I'm trying to think how many rows there would
- 24 have been but I probably -- if I'm not mistaken, it seemed about
- 25 there were like three sections, would you say, you know, like a

- 1 window kind of thing it's broken into?
- 2 O. Yeah, I think so. The --
- 3 A. There's like a, like a -- before you get to the first,
- 4 there's a bar, and then there's another section and then a bar.
- 5 Q. Yep.
- 6 A. I was probably in the middle but a little -- maybe one
- 7 back from that because I forget --
- 8 Q. What side of the boat were you on?
- 9 A. What?
- 10 Q. What side of the boat were you on?
- 11 A. The right.
- 12 Q. The right side.
- 13 A. I was facing front, to the right.
- Q. And were you in a aisle or a window seat?
- 15 A. No. I was not -- I was at the window.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. And the chaperone from one of the trips was next to me
- 18 on the aisle.
- 19 Q. Do you remember what her name was?
- 20 A. You know, I never asked her her name. She was from -- I
- 21 do know they're from West Chester because I thought she was -- I
- 22 said where are you from, she said West Chester. I thought New
- 23 York, and it turns out there's a West Chester in Pennsylvania.
- 24 Q. Okay.
- 25 A. So that's where the group was, and then she told me

- 1 she -- I asked if she was one of the teachers and she said she was
- 2 the director of the church.
- 3 Q. Okay.
- 4 A. Whatever church they were affiliated with, she was the
- 5 director.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. And her daughter was with her and she was across the way
- 8 at the window, one row.
- 9 Q. Okay.
- 10 A. I would say maybe we were four rows from the back, three
- 11 rows.
- 12 Q. Yeah. Actually, I think --
- 13 A. I don't know how many after that window there would be.
- Q. Yeah. I think that's -- I've got you right about four
- 15 rows from the back.
- 16 A. Yeah. I have a feeling that's about it because I wanted
- 17 more of an open, you know --
- 18 Q. And you said that the woman next to you, her daughter
- 19 was directly across?
- 20 A. One row in front and across, to the left.
- Q. Okay. Fantastic. I'm going to take a step back to when
- 22 you got on the boat and the captain did the safety brief.
- 23 A. Uh-huh.
- Q. Could you just tell me what you remember from that
- 25 briefing?

- 1 A. He just said that there are lifeguards above -- uh-huh
- 2 life jackets above. Children's are on the -- he called it, the
- 3 children's are all on this side and the larger ones are on the
- 4 side that I was on. Thank goodness, in a way, because I could get
- 5 to it faster, and the life jackets were above us and he showed us
- 6 how to open the clip and put it around. And he says, you know, I
- 7 just have to do this, it's part of our safety regulations, but we
- 8 want you to be aware that it would be very rare to -- you know,
- 9 that kind of thing, assuring us that this is just part of what you
- 10 need to know, and I'm glad he did so, because the hard part right
- 11 away in that instance, was getting the clip open -- you know, just
- 12 having the time to open the clip, to be able to open the jacket.
- So I think that was the part I had to think quickly and
- 14 that's why I didn't get the whole jacket on. I kind of -- I
- 15 grabbed what I could and got it around part of me on my shoulder.
- 16 But I'm glad I knew to do that because, you know, I think in an
- 17 emergency you would probably just tried to grab it and put it on
- 18 and realize you had to undo the clip.
- 19 Q. Right.
- 20 A. So he did do that demonstration.
- Q. Okay. And then once you were stopped, what was your
- 22 first indication that something might be wrong?
- 23 A. The smoke coming through the -- as it was blowing from
- 24 the front, you know, like you would when an engine overheats.
- 25 There was smoke coming on either side. It didn't come in the --

- 1 it wasn't in the actual boat itself but it was coming from the
- 2 front but maybe along the sides by the windows.
- 3 Q. What color was the smoke?
- 4 A. What color? Whitish-gray. It wasn't black. It wasn't
- 5 dark. It was just the beginnings of it, I guess, because he
- 6 immediately jumped in when he realized that that was happening and
- 7 then had shut the engine down and then it subsided, and somebody
- 8 said you know, I thought I smelled something, and one of the
- 9 younger people sitting in the front said we thought we smelled
- 10 something and then it was -- then it started to actually smoke.
- 11 That was probably what happened.
- 12 Q. Okay. Now once, once the boat stopped, what was your
- 13 first indication that something was -- that there might be danger
- 14 related to the barge?
- 15 A. I didn't, not until I guess somebody sighted it. Now
- 16 I'm not sure who actually sighted it because that's when I got
- 17 up -- we got up to look, to turn behind us to see, and I think
- 18 when I first saw it, it was further back, and I don't know. I
- 19 guess you just don't think this is going to happen, so you just
- 20 kind of feel like there's -- somebody's going to get out of the
- 21 way one way -- even though I knew we couldn't, and I think it was
- 22 the realization, oh my god, it's not going to stop and that's when
- 23 the call came out, get your life jackets and get out of here. And
- 24 sure enough, it just hit and then we were over. But I never -- I
- 25 don't remember -- I don't think anyone jumped. It was when I was

- 1 hit with that wave that I actually went under.
- 2 Q. Who's --
- 3 A. I remember stuffing the phone, you know, kind of pushing
- 4 the phone back -- pushing the phone down into my -- I had an
- 5 outside pocket and of course I just sort of pushed it down and
- 6 grabbed the life jacket in one kind of fell swoop, and then all of
- 7 a sudden I was over here. You know, that was it.
- 8 Q. Do you remember who said grab your jackets and get off
- 9 the boat?
- 10 A. I assumed it was the tour guide or one of the teens in
- 11 the front. Yeah, because it sounded more of a command from
- 12 somebody who would have known to say that, I suppose. It didn't
- 13 sound like one of the kids or one of the tourists.
- Q. Okay. Did you see -- did you happen to see the captain
- 15 talking on the radio?
- 16 A. I saw -- yes. I did see -- he -- and I also saw the
- 17 young fellow out there talking on the phone.
- 18 Q. Okay.
- 19 A. I assumed it was his cell phone -- somebody's phone, but
- 20 it was a phone that he was, he was making the call.
- Q. Were you able to hear any of the --
- 22 A. I couldn't hear the -- what I heard was from the lady in
- 23 the front seat afterwards when we were back in the amphitheatre,
- 24 so she was saying that he was just getting static when he called
- 25 the barge. You could never reach -- you could never get to talk

- 1 to anybody at the barge. He did, he did get in touch, I guess,
- 2 with the DUKW company originally when this all happened because he
- 3 knew that they were coming out to, you know, get us.
- 4 Q. Okay.
- 5 A. So -- but he was trying then -- he was, like I said,
- 6 then it was a hand signal, you know, just getting up there and
- 7 flailing and trying to make sure somebody saw him but I don't know
- 8 what that was.
- 9 Q. Okay. Once you were out of the boat in the water, you
- 10 said you were with one of the Hungarian students and you made your
- 11 way over to a white buoy?
- 12 A. Yeah. She was sort of paddling. The tide was kind of
- 13 pulling us the other way and then we saw this thing bobbing up and
- 14 down and I said, well -- I said. I don't know what she understood
- 15 because she never said anything. Let's try to get over here and
- 16 hold onto this, and at least we felt like we had somebody to grab
- 17 onto while we were waiting, but we -- as I said, she -- it turned
- 18 out we were sharing the life jacket and I don't even know how that
- 19 would have happened because she wasn't next to me but you said, a
- 20 very strange thing.
- Q. Do you remember what kind of boat it was that you were
- 22 pulled out onto?
- 23 A. It was a small one, one of the small ones. They gave us
- 24 a long black pole and we inched our way up to the boat and then
- 25 they told us to, you know, hold onto the rope, so there were maybe

- 1 two sections of rope and then there was a little doorway and we
- 2 got pulled into that.
- 3 Q. What --
- A. Because they were trying to get this other gentleman --
- 5 there was a back of -- there was another flat part of the back but
- 6 they were getting this other heavier set gentleman onto that and
- 7 they couldn't lift him and I heard them ask that they needed
- 8 more help -- you know, they needed someone else to try to get him
- 9 up.
- 10 Q. So the heavier gentleman was pulled onto that boat?
- 11 A. Yeah.
- 12 Q. Okay.
- 13 A. They pulled us into this narrow doorway, I would say,
- 14 you know, into that, and then -- but what's interesting is I
- 15 thought the boat was a dark black boat. I didn't think it was the
- 16 white police boat and yet one of the TV stations here thought they
- 17 saw me because they asked what I was wearing which was -- matched
- 18 that description, and when I looked, it may have been a police
- 19 boat. I'm not sure I make the best eyewitness on that, but it did
- 20 look like me but I wasn't sure that was the boat. It looked like
- 21 too many people but it's possible it was correct.
- 22 Q. Do you remember anybody else that was on the boat with
- 23 you?
- 24 A. Yeah, this young girl.
- 25 Q. Did you ever catch her name?

- 1 A. The one that I was with. They pulled her on the boat,
- 2 and she was in one of those helicopter clips and I recognized her
- 3 immediately, so --
- 4 Q. Did you ever catch her name?
- 5 A. No. No, I -- like I said, everything went crazy.
- 6 Q. Okay.
- 7 A. But she had long blonde, she had long blonde hair. She
- 8 was about, I would say 14, 15.
- 9 Q. Okay. Can you swim?
- 10 A. I can. I'm not -- I wouldn't consider myself a swimmer
- 11 per se, but I can swim and I can stay afloat in the water, but I
- 12 don't usually choose to do that. Like at the deep end I like to
- 13 be able to stand, like my arms are whatever, but yes, I could do a
- 14 back float and I could swim across, you know, if I had to go
- 15 across the short end of the pool.
- 16 Q. Okay. And then did, did you end up going to the
- 17 hospital? Do you have any injuries?
- 18 A. No. I actually have bruises that came out in the last
- 19 two days, like black and blue marks on my legs and on my arms and
- 20 in those areas, which may or may not -- may have come from being
- 21 dragged up onto the boat or something. I don't know.
- 22 Q. Okay.
- 23 A. I felt sore in those areas and now they're, now they're
- 24 black and blue, but nothing that I felt, and then I went to get my
- 25 eyes checked because I needed new glasses and they found two

- 1 hemorrhages, one in each -- in the back of each eye so she asked
- 2 me to go and take pictures of it. They're very tiny and she said
- 3 that she, you know, was hoping that they'd disappear. I'm going
- 4 to go back in a month and have it checked.
- 5 Q. Okay. Great. That's all the questions that I've got
- 6 for right now. I'm going to pass it off to the other gentlemen
- 7 here.
- 8 BY CWO GLADISH:
- 9 O. Good afternoon, Mrs. Cohen. Chief Warrant Officer
- 10 Gladish with the Coast Guard here in Philadelphia. I work with
- 11 the Investigations Office. Obviously the NTSB, it's their
- 12 investigation. We're assisting them. How are you doing today,
- 13 mentally, ma'am? How are things several days after this event
- 14 took place?
- 15 A. I seem to be doing okay. I think things have been so
- 16 chaotic I haven't had -- it hasn't had a chance to -- and I don't
- 17 want to use the word sink in, but --
- 18 Q. Right. Understood.
- 19 A. Wrong choice of words but --
- 20 Q. Right.
- 21 A. But I think, you know, it's been, as I said, so --
- 22 everything's so surreal when it happened. I guess you never think
- 23 anything like this is going to happen to you when you read about
- 24 it, and you know, you move on, but I'm trying to sort things out.
- 25 You know, the first thing is to get my glasses and the next thing

- 1 is to get a driver's license, so you're -- when you're kept busy
- 2 like that, between the phone calls and everything else, so I think
- 3 it hasn't really sunk in that this really happened because it all
- 4 happened so quickly. It seems more now like a nightmare than it
- 5 was reality, you know.
- Q. Right, right. Ma'am, you said earlier, when Liam was --
- 7 he asked you a question with regard to the casualty on the DUKW
- 8 boat, the reason why it stopped, it was -- you said it was an
- 9 overheat?
- 10 A. Well, I said I could have equated to an overheated --
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. -- car, when you see smoke coming up.
- 13 Q. Right.
- A. So I don't know that that's what it was.
- 15 Q. Right.
- 16 A. But to see smoke coming -- they saw smoke coming out and
- 17 then he said shut down the engine immediately.
- 18 Q. Right.
- 19 A. Because they didn't want a fire.
- 20 Q. Okay.
- 21 A. Somebody said there was a little fire but I -- again, I
- 22 didn't see anything.
- Q. Was there any odor relative --
- 24 A. Yes. There was an odor prior to that.
- 25 Q. Okay.

- 1 A. Because that's when somebody said I thought I smelled
- 2 something.
- 3 Q. Right.
- 4 A. And then that occurred.
- 5 Q. Right.
- 6 A. That was one of the kids who said that.
- 7 Q. Okay. Were you ever in a vehicle that overheated,
- 8 ma'am?
- 9 A. I was witness to and I'm sure years ago I may -- I think
- 10 I was, but I can't say for sure.
- 11 Q. Okay.
- 12 A. I've seen overheated vehicles, you know, where you have
- 13 to put the hood up and you, you know, start seeing the smoke come
- 14 out.
- 15 Q. Right, right. Initially when the crewman put the anchor
- 16 out, can you recollect by looking at the shoreline, particularly
- 17 the Philadelphia side, because you were closer to that side of the
- 18 channel, did the vessel hold in position as soon as that command
- 19 was given once that anchor was let over the rail?
- 20 A. No. I don't think we moved because I felt like -- yeah,
- 21 we were the same distance pretty much from the docks that we were
- 22 when we were going along that line.
- 23 Q. Okay.
- 24 A. I do remember the other DUKW boat coming past saying
- 25 could we -- you know, could we be of any help or something, or do

- 1 you need help, he called out across the way, seeing, I guess, that
- 2 we stopped. And, I gather there were signs that we were getting
- 3 help, you know, because that was a little bit after the calls went
- 4 out.
- 5 Q. Right. Okay.
- A. So I don't think we -- we never moved. We really didn't
- 7 move any place from the time we anchored.
- 8 Q. Okay.
- 9 A. That's why I didn't feel -- none of us, I think, felt
- 10 endangered in any way.
- 11 Q. Okay. Thank you, ma'am. I have nothing further. I'm
- 12 going to pass it along to the other gentlemen at the table.
- 13 A. Okay. Thank you so much.
- BY MR. LAWRENCE:
- 15 Q. This is John Lawrence. Just I think you mentioned it
- 16 before, ma'am, that the -- did you say you saw or did not see
- 17 anybody on the barge or tugboat?
- 18 A. Did not see anybody on the, on the barge or tugboat at
- 19 all.
- 20 O. Thank you. That's all I had.
- BY MR. GATLEY:
- 22 Q. Sandra, this is Bill Gatley from Ride the Ducks. Glad
- 23 that you're here to be interviewed and the -- I don't really have
- 24 any questions.
- 25 A. Okay. I have spoken to several people who have called

- 1 me to check on me.
- Q. If you need anything, just give us a call. We'll also,
- 3 on your glasses and all those types of things.
- A. Yeah. And meanwhile, I've been able to replace those.
- 5 They were able to do something in a hurry and I'm keeping all of
- 6 our -- you know, our receipts and things.
- 7 Q. That's great. Thank you.
- 8 BY MR. LARUE:
- 9 Q. Sandra, this is Liam LaRue again.
- 10 A. Is it William?
- 11 Q. Liam.
- 12 A. Oh, Liam?
- 13 Q. Yeah.
- 14 A. Okay.
- 15 Q. No problem. Just the last question I have for you is,
- 16 is there anything else you can think of that we haven't asked you
- 17 that might be important that we know?
- 18 A. Not right offhand other than, as I said, I -- when
- 19 this -- just the commendation part would be to everybody that was
- 20 on this rescue team, especially finding out about that Navy seal
- 21 that unexpectedly was there. I think that -- you know, just
- 22 having everybody there so quickly really made a difference and,
- 23 and doing so, you know, treated with such care, so --
- Q. Well, we're glad they were there too.
- 25 A. But I guess, you know, you have a hundred ways to think

- 1 that you might die but you don't think on a DUKW boat.
- 2 Q. That's right.
- 3 A. Not one of the, one of the ways but I guess these things
- 4 happen.
- 5 Q. Well, that's why we're here. Hopefully this won't
- 6 happen again.
- 7 A. All right. Well, thank you so much.
- Q. Well, thank you. Appreciate you taking the time to talk
- 9 to us today, and if you do think of anything else, you've got my
- 10 phone number.
- 11 A. Yes. I think we have that, but do you want to give it
- 12 to me right now?
- 13 Q. Sure. It's --
- MR. LARUE: I'm going to just shut off the recording
- 15 here. It was okay that I recorded this, right?
- MS. COHEN: Yes.
- 17 MR. LARUE: Okay. Thank you.
- 18 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)
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### CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: DUKW 34 and M/V CARIBBEAN SEA

Telephonic Interview of Sandra Cohen

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA-10-MM-025

PLACE: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

DATE: July 11, 2010

was held according to the record, and that this is the original, complete, true and accurate transcript which has been compared to the recording accomplished at the hearing.

Susan Ueberroth Transcriber